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Midfommer Nights Dreame

Variant Edition



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Mary Ware Allen

Variant Edition

SHAKESPEARE



A

MIDSOMMER NIGHTS DREAME

FACSIMILE REPRINT OF THE TEXT OF THE
FIRST FOLIO, 1623

*With Foot-Notes giving every Variant in Spelling and
Punctuation occurring in the two Quartos of 1600,
according to the perfect Copies of the Original
Texts in the Barton Collection,
Boston Public Library*

WITH INTRODUCTION AND NOTES

BY

HENRY JOHNSON



BOSTON AND NEW YORK
HOUGHTON, MIFFLIN AND COMPANY
The Riverside Press, Cambridge
1888

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Miss Mary W. Allen

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Preface.

THE present edition of *A Midsummer nights Dreame* has been prepared with a view to assist in putting the study of this Shakespearian text on a more permanent basis than is commonly laid. It gives the original material in full, including every variation in spelling and punctuation of the two editions of the play published in Shakespeare's life-time, from the First Folio text. The latter has been used as the principal text for its having been the last which may have had the benefit of Shakespeare's manuscript authority.

While there will always be a place for conjectural emendation, the necessity for it is constantly diminishing with every advance in the knowledge of Elizabethan English.

Why should not the study of Shakespeare, at least in universities, begin with putting into the student's hands all the textual facts? Of course the student will never cease to need more help than the best teacher and all the commentators can give. This edition will be useful only if the supposition is correct, that teacher and student should be first concerned with what Shakespeare wrote, as far as the authoritative original texts enable us to judge. And it seems too much to assume that the grounds on which a word or a phrase is generally rejected as not Shakespeare's are either so profound or so delicate as to be beyond the judgment of any student. Whoever rejects the "Now bent" of I. i. 10 must do so on other grounds than that it is less beautiful or apt than Rowe's emendation, "New-bent." The notes include every variation from the texts of Fisher, Roberts, and the Folio which the Cambridge, Globe, Clarendon Press, Delius, Rolfe, Hudson, and White editions agree in adopting. For the source of these changes I am indebted to the Cambridge edition; I have, of course, verified the references whenever it has been

possible for me to do so. In all these editions the spelling and punctuation have been modernized throughout. Many stage-directions, which were deemed dispensable by the seventeenth-century editors, have been introduced into nearly all modern editions.

It is my agreeable duty to express my cordial thanks to Hon. Mellen Chamberlain, Librarian of the Boston Public Library, for facilities in the consultation of the Shakespearian treasures in his custody ; also to Mr. Arthur Mason Knapp, Librarian of Bates Hall, Boston Public Library, for courteous assistance.

BRUNSWICK, MAINE, *October, 1887.*

Introduction.

I. DATE OF COMPOSITION. — Of the earliest known reference to *A Midsummer nights Dreame*, Halliwell-Phillipps, in his indispensable *Outlines of the Life of Shakespeare*, Seventh Edition, Longmans, London, 1887, II, 148, writes as follows: "The following extracts [including other references to Shakespeare besides the allusion to the present play] are from a treatise entitled 'A comparative Discourse of our English poets with the Greeke, Latine and Italian poets,' which is near the end of a thick little volume called '*Palladis Tamia. Wits Treasury, being the Second part of Wits Commonwealth. By Francis Meres, Maister of Artes of both Universities. Viuitur ingenio, cætera mortis erunt.* — At London. — Printed by P. Short for Cuthbert Burbie, and are to be solde at his shop at the Royall Exchange, 1598.' There can be no doubt that this chapter was written in the summer of 1598, the work itself having been entered at Stationers' Hall on the 7th of September in that year, and there being in the Discourse a notice of Marston's *Satires* registered on the previous 27th of May."

The reference to the present play is as follows: "As *Plautus* and *Seneca* are accounted the best for Comedy and Tragedy among the Latines: so *Shakespeare* among y^e English is the most excellent in both kinds for the stage; for Comedy, witnes his *Gëtleme of Verona*, his *Errors*, his *Loue labors lost*, his *Loue labours wonne*, his *Midsummers night dreame*, and his *Merchant of Venice*: for Tragedy his *Richard the 2.* *Richard the 3.* *Henry the 4.* *King Iohn*, *Titus Andronicus* and his *Romeo and Juliet*."

The year 1598 is consequently a date before which the play must have been written. With this limitation, the actual date of composition is as yet a matter of pure conjecture, based on considerations of plot, style, rhythm, etc., or on imaginable

allusions to events of recent occurrence. Moreover, the play may have been composed in honor of a marriage, and on this as a principal ground has been supposed to have been written as early as in 1590, the year of the marriage of Essex. This is the year to which it is ascribed in the English Philological Society's Dictionary, *s. v. Abridgment*. Perhaps the most generally preferred date of composition is 1594.

II. THE FIRST EDITION. — The first edition was published in 1600 by Thomas Fisher, with the following title-page:—

A
Midfommer nights
dreame.

As it hath beene fundry times pub-
lickely acted, by the Right honoura-
ble, the Lord Chamberlaine his
seruants.

Written by William Shakespeare.

[Publisher's device.]

¶ Imprinted at London, for *Thomas Fisher*, and are to
be foulded at his shoppe, at the Signe of the White Hart,
in *Fleetstreet*. 1600.

This title-page and that of the second edition according to the Barton copies were published in facsimile among the illustrations in Mr. Justin Winsor's *Shakespeare Bibliography*, Boston, 1876. Mr. Winsor states that at that date, 1876, the Barton copy was the only one of the first edition in the United States. This continues to be the case.

Every student of Shakespeare is grateful for the publication of facsimiles in photo-lithography of the first and second editions of this play, with introductions by J. W. Ebsworth, M. A., which were issued in London, 1880, in the series of *Shakspeare Quarto Facsimiles*, executed under the superintendence of F. J. Furnivall, M. A., Ph. D. The Fisher

quarto facsimile was made up from photographs of two copies, that of the Duke of Devonshire being used for fifty-five pages, and that of Mr. Alfred H. Huth for the other eight, deficient in the duke's copy. The perfect Barton copy shows many more variations from this facsimile than one would look for, even in a book of that period. In some eighty-one cases I have noted the absence of a punctuation-mark or a letter from the facsimile while it would be plainly present in the Barton copy; as, for instance, in I. 1. 21, where the Barton copy has "*thee?*" and the facsimile "*thee*". In some sixty-one instances, where the facsimile might leave one in doubt as to the reading of the quarto, in such slight details as confusion of *f* and *ſ* or *r* and *t*, I find the Barton copy to furnish plainly the reading which would naturally be assumed to exist. In almost every case of this sort there can be no possible ambiguity as to the author's intention. This absence of doubt is also true in most cases of the lacking punctuation-marks and letters in the facsimile. There are also a few manifestly intentional corrections of the type during the course of the printing of the original edition.

The Fisher quarto (F) was entered in the Stationers' Register as follows:—

[A. D. 1600.] 8 Octobris.

Thomas flyssher Entred for his Copie vnder the handes of master RODES *f* and the Wardens, A booke called *A Mydsommer nightes Dreame*. . . . vj^d¹

It was published in the same year, and consists of thirty-two leaves, thirty-five lines to a full page, excepting in the case of leaves G and G₂, which have on each of the four pages thirty-four lines. The Duke of Devonshire's copy of the Roberts quarto has B₁ *verso* and B₂ *recto* printed from the identical forms which served for the same pages of the Fisher quarto. These pages, not being *recto* and *verso* of one leaf, cannot have been inserted in the copy. They prove the priority of the Fisher quarto, in which these pages are uniform in individualities of spelling with all the others, while they are conspicu-

¹ From Prof. Arber's *Transcript of the Registers of the Company of Stationers*, etc., III. 174, as quoted in the Fisher facsimile, page v, above referred to.

ously different from all the others in the Roberts quarto. The Barton copy of the Roberts quarto does not show this peculiarity, but has the two pages referred to quite uniform in spelling with the rest of the Roberts text. The copy used by the Cambridge editors was like the Barton.

This proves that there were at least two issues of the Roberts quarto. The punctuation of the Fisher quarto is careful, and, being manifestly rhetorical, if I may term it so, rather than grammatical, can never be ignored in the interpretation of the text.

III. THE SECOND EDITION. — The second edition (R) was not entered in the Stationers' Register. It was published in the same year as the first, with the following title-page : —

A
Midfommer nights
dreame.

As it hath beene fundry times pub-
likely acted, by the Right Honoura-
ble, the Lord Chamberlaine his
seruants.

Written by William Shakespeare.

[Printer's device.]

Printed by James Roberts, 1600.

It consists likewise of thirty-two leaves, thirty-five lines to a full page. It corresponds with F, page for page to a word, though not line for line, excepting in the cases of leaves G and G₂, which are set up, presumably by oversight, a line short in F. With the last line of G₂ *recto* the uniformity with F is restored.

Although the identity of B *verso* and B₂ *recto* in R (Duke of Devonshire's copy) and F does not prove that Roberts was the printer of F, it shows, nevertheless, that he *may* have been, and so may have had access to the MS. which was used for F.

Almost the only improvements in R over F are typographi-

cal, consisting mainly in corrections of some twelve or fifteen misprints, none of them less obvious than that of I. 1. 4, *wanes* for *waves* in F. In one place, V. 1. 7-9, the alignment is corrected. Mention is made in the Notes of a few cases in which R has the appearance of having done more than correct the printer's errors in F; yet the ground of these changes may have been in the context only.

R changed freely the spelling and punctuation of F, and made frequent substitution of one word or phrase for another, with the result of mere variation in form, and not in sense.

R is not printed with nearly as great care as F. Cases of inferiority are numerous throughout the text. The facsimile of R in the Shakspeare Quarto Facsimile series, above referred to, shows a much closer likeness of the Duke of Devonshire's copy, from which the photographs were taken, to the Barton copy than was the case in the copies of F. There are only about twenty instances of seemingly lacking punctuation-marks or of like relatively insignificant variations, and some twenty-five cases in which the facsimile shows defective or doubtful punctuation or letters; as, for instance, in IV. 1. 182, *worne*. as against *worne*, in the Barton copy. There are at present six copies of the original Roberts quarto in the United States, located or owned as follows:—

Boston Public Library, Barton Collection.

Mr. Theodore Irwin, Oswego, N. Y.

Mr. Charles H. Kalbfleisch, New York.

Lenox Library, New York.

Mr. N. Q. Pope, Brooklyn.

University of Virginia, Charlottesville.

Through the uniform kindness of the custodians or owners I have ascertained that these copies are all of the second issue.

IV. THE THIRD EDITION. — The third edition of the play consisted of pages 145-162 in the division of Comedies in the First Folio, 1623. This first collective edition of Shakespeare's plays adopted the Roberts text of the present play. It continues many obvious blunders of R, while its corrections of R and agreement with F are with rare exceptions plainly such as any intelligent reader could make.

The First Folio was reprinted with marvellous accuracy by

Lionel Booth, London, 1862-4. My collation of this reprint with the Barton copy did not result in the detection of a single variation except in the wholly insignificant case of IV. 1. 75, *Queene* for *Queen* in the Barton copy. As a matter of curiosity I note that the Barton copy and the Booth reprint agree in the misprinting of III. 1. 124, *with*, with inverted *i*, as against *with* in Staunton's Lithographic Facsimile of the First Folio, London, 1866 ; likewise in III. 2. 138, *my*, as against *my* in Staunton. These microscopic variations probably exist in the originals.

Notes.

THE *division* of the text *into scenes*, in the present edition, is that adopted by modern editors, almost without exception.

The *line-numbers* of the parts of the play in verse are those of the metrical, and not of the typographical, arrangement. The lines of the parts in prose are numbered according to the printing of the First Folio which is facsimiled in this edition.

The three texts are identical in spelling, punctuation, and alignment except so far as the foot-notes show the contrary. It seemed useless, however, to include such a variation as the abbreviation *Hyp.* for *Hip.* when the same personage is unmistakably referred to in the three texts.

F stands for Fisher quarto.

R stands for Roberts quarto.

R* stands for " " facsimile, Shakspeare Quarto Facsimiles, London, 1880.

²³FR3 indicates that F and R begin their third page with the twenty-third line. The title-page is numbered 1, the reverse of it is blank, the next printed page, that of the opening of the play, 2, and so on.

[145¹] indicates the page and column in the First Folio.

;| F : R indicates that the ; is replaced by an | in F and by a : in R.

-]om. F indicates that the hyphen is omitted, and that the words or parts of words so connected in the Folio are printed as *one* word in F. When a hyphen is in the Folio and the words are printed as two in F or R, they are so written in the foot-notes.

/ marks the end of a line.

is : / F is. / R indicates that the metrical line referred to is printed as a single line in F and R ending as shown.

The *dates* of the *principal* older editions of Shakspeare, and of such recent ones as are referred to in the notes, are : —

- 1632 Second Folio.
- 1664 Third “
- 1685 Fourth “
- 1709 Rowe.
- 1714 “ , 2d edition.
- 1725 Pope.
- 1728 “ , 2d edition.
- 1733 Theobald.
- 1744 Hanmer.
- 1747 Warburton.
- 1765 Johnson.
- 1767 Capell.
- 1790 Malone.
- 1793 Johnson and Steevens, 4th edition, revised and augmented by Isaac Reed.
- 1821 Boswell's Variorum.
- 1853 Halliwell's Folio edition.
- 1857 Dyce.
- 1863 Cambridge edition, Clark and Wright.
- 1864 Globe edition, Clark and Wright.
- 1877 Clarendon Press edition of Shakespeare's Select Plays, Wright.
- 1877 Friendly edition, Rolfe.
- [1877-1881] Leopold edition, text of Delius, introd. by Furnivall (Delius' 5th Germ. ed., 1882).
- 1880 Harvard edition, Hudson.
- 1883 Riverside edition, White.

Unless an exception is made by showing in () the practice of a single editor, *the notes give merely the name of the editor proposing the given change*, which has been uniformly adopted by succeeding editors. Thus I. i. 10 Now bent] New-bent *Rowe* indicates that Rowe made the change referred to, and has been followed generally; and in particular by, at least, the Cambridge, Globe, Clarendon Press, Delius, Rolfe, Hudson, and White editions.

The *stage-directions* which are not assigned to any editor in the notes, are all as early as Capell, except V. i. 44, 48, 52, 56, 291, 334. I have not at hand the means to trace the source of the changes referred to in the notes on IV. i. 42 and 55.

- I. i. SCENE I. *Athens. The Palace of THESEUS.*
- 3 Moon Fo.] The absence of the final *e* seems to be due to a practice of omitting this silent letter in the case of crowded lines. This contraction



applies also to final double consonants, as in line 7, *wil*, and often. Compare I. 1. 201, *wold* R Fo, *wer* Fo. These shorter forms were also sometimes used, when there was no such typographical reason. F has *nights* on the title-page and at the top of page 2, where there was not in either case space for an extra *e*; the head-line of each page, however, excepting p. 61, has *nightes*.

10 Now bent] New-bent *Rowe*.

15 [*Exit Philostrate.*] *Theobald*.

24 *Stand forth Demetrius*. F and

26 *Stand forth Lisander*. F are the only stage-directions in F which have the personal names in italics. They were first printed as part of the text by *Rowe*.

127 *Exeunt Fo*] The loss or the lack of a punctuation-mark at the very end of a line is not uncommon; compare l. 201, I. 2. 110, and often.

136 loue] low *Theobald*.

187 Your words I] Yours would I *Hanmer*.

191 Ile (*Delius*)] I'd *Hanmer*.

216 sweld] sweet *Theobald*.

219 strange companions] stranger companies *Theobald*.

I. 2. SCENE II. *Athens*.

QUINCE's house. *Capell*.

II. 1. SCENE I. *A wood near Athens*.

7 Moons FR Fo] The printers in all three cases may have omitted an *e* because of a crowded line.

48, 49 . . . crab / . . . bob /] Compare for the rhyme V. 1. 290-1. . . . pap / . . . hop /

60 (SCENE II. *Delius*.)

61 Fairy] Fairies *Theobald*. See note on IV. 2. 206.

79 Eagles] *Ægle Rowe*.

91 Hath] Have *Rowe*, 2d ed.

109 chinne] thin *Halliwell*, *Tyrwhitt's conjecture*.

177 when she FFo whence she R] For a somewhat similar perversion of the text see IV. 1. 79, loath his F, loathe this R, loath this Fo, and IV. 1. 190, thing seemes FR, things seemes Fo.

190 stay] slay *Theobald*, *Thirby's conjecture*.

stayeth] slayeth *Theobald*, *Thirby's conjecture*.

242 [*Exit DEM.* *Capell* (om. *Delius*, *Hudson*.)

244 (*Exit*) *Exeunt DEMETRIUS and HELENA.* *Delius*, *Hudson*.)

247 *Enter Pucke.*] *Re-enter PUCKE*, after line 246.

- II. 2. SCENE II. *Capell.* (Sc. III. *Delius.*)
Another part of the wood.
 26 [*Exeunt Fairies.* *Rowe.*
Enter OBERON, and squeezes the flower on Titania's eyelids. *Capell.*
 34 [*Exit.* *Rowe.*
 57 humane] human *Fourth Folio, 1685.*
 100 Lysander! *Capell.*
 119 humane] human *Fourth Folio, 1685.*
- III. 1. SCENE I. *The wood.* TITANIA lying asleep.
 66 or] and *Collier MS.*
 74 *Enter Pucke behind.*
 79 *Pir. (Delius, Hudson.)*] *Bot.*
 81 *Pir. (Delius, Hudson.)*] *Bot.*
 85 [*Exit.* *Capell.*
 86 *This. (Delius, Hudson.)*] *Flu.*
 90 *Thys. (Delius, Hudson.)*] *Flu.*
 98 *Thys. (Delius, Hudson.)*] *Flu.*
 100 *Re-enter PUCK, and BOTTOM with an ass' head.*] *Capell.*
Pir. (Delius, Hudson.)] *Bot.*
 159 *First Fai.* Ready.
Sec. Fai. And I.
Third Fai. And I.
Fourth Fai. And I. (*om. Delius.*)
All. (Fourth Fai. Delius.) Where shall we go?
Capell.
 171 *First Fai.* Hail, mortal!
Sec. Fai. Hail! *Capell.*
 172 *Third Fai.* Hail! *Capell.*
 173 *Fourth Fai.* Hail! *Capell.*
 192 you (*Delius*)] your *Third Folio, 1664* (you of *Collier MS., Hudson, Rolfe.*)
- III. 2. SCENE II. *Another part of the wood.*
 6 love.] *Rowe.*
 80 part I so : / See me no more, whether *Pope.*
 85 slip] sleep *Rowe.*
 141 coniealed F] Compare "coniealed frost" in *Clement Robinson's A Handfull of pleasant delites, Lond. 1584, p. 3, l. 7*; reprinted by Prof. Arber in *The English Scholar's Library, No. 3.*
 190 bare] bear *Fourth Folio, 1685.*
 201 See note on l. 257.
 213 first life] first, like *Theobald, Folkes's conjecture.*
 250 praise] prayers *Theobald.*
 257 The text and the printing of F seem to me perfectly defensible. There is certainly no printed

unaccented syllable in the fifth foot, but on the stage the second *no* may have been delivered in the time of two syllables, if not actually as *no-o*. The typographical disarrangement which R introduced and Fo copied shows that, although they did not appreciate the rhythm of F, yet they did not add an extra monosyllabic word. The same uniform treatment by FRFo is to be observed in lines 201 and 421 of this scene. Compare Abbott, Shak. Gram., 482.

264 O (*Delius*)] *om. Pope.*

406 Speak! In some bush?] *Capell.*

413 *Re-enter* LYSANDER.

420 [*Sleeps.* *Capell.*

421 See note on l. 257.

430 [*Lies down and sleeps.* *Capell.*

440 *Enter* *Hermia*] *Re-enter* *Hermia* after l. 441.

447 [*Lies down and sleeps.*

451 To your eye] *Rowe.*

452 *Squeezing the juice on* *Lysander's eyes.* *Rowe.*

IV. 1.

SCENE I. *The same.* LYSANDER, DEMETRIUS, HELENA, and HERMIA lying asleep.

The lines of this scene are wrongly numbered in the Globe ed. Titania's lines 27 and 30 are reckoned as two each.

41 alwaies] all ways *Theobald* (a while *Hanmer*, *Hudson*, *White*.)

42 *Omit commas.*

55 flowerets'

73 or] o'er *Theobald*, *Thirlby's conjecture.*

82 these five *Theobald*, *Thirlby's conjecture.*

93 Faire Fo] Compare V. 1. 16 aire Fo.

117 Seem'd *Second Folio*, 1632.

133 right] rite *Pope.*

172 see] saw *Steevens.* See for *saw* occurs very commonly in dialect usage in Maine, and presumably in Northern New England generally. "Soons he see me cummin, he run."

173 a] in *Steevens.*

206 about expound F] The emendation of F which seems necessary here, namely, *about t'expound*, is quite like that of II. 1. 61, *Fairy skippe* (skip RFo) FRFo *Fairies skip*, which was made by *Theobald*.

208 but patcht a FR] Compare *As You Like It*, I. 1. 2, *but poor a*; and Abbott, Shak. Gram., 422.

IV. 2. SCENE II. *Athens. QUINCE's house. Omit Thisby.*
 14 naught *Second Folio, 1632.*

28 I am not true *Athenian FR]* Compare *Clement Robinson's A Handefull of pleasant delites*, Arber's Reprint, p. 30:—

I will be stil readie, as I am true man.

V. 1. SCENE I. *Athens. The palace of THESEUS.*

43 [*Giving a paper. Theobald.*

44 [*Reads.*

48 [*Reads.*

52 [*Reads.*

56 [*Reads.*

84 [*Exit PHILOSTRATE.*

105 [*Re-enter PHILOSTRATE. Theobald.*

176 [*Wall holds up his fingers. Capell.*

202 [*Exeunt PYR. and THIS. Dyce.*

205 morall] mural *Pope, 2d ed. (wall White.)*

Now is the Moon vsed between the two neighbors. *FR]* The agreement of R with F gives a strong presumption in favor of the correctness of a reading. Something besides can be said for the reasonableness of this passage, which, as far as I can learn, has every editor against it. The Prologue had announced, lines 134-7:—

This man, with lanterne, dogge, and bufh of thorne,
 Prefenteth moone-shine. For if you will know,
 By moone-shine did thefe louers thinke no scorne
 To meete at *Ninus* tombe, there, there to woove :

The Enterlude then proceeded as far as this agreement of Pyramus and Thisbie to meet at the tomb, and Wall, who had served between the two neighbors, makes his explanation and leaves the stage. Thereupon the Duke says that now, in accordance with the statement of the Prologue, the Moon will be used between the two neighbors, probably in some such ingenuous way as the Wall had been.

260 [*The Lion shakes Thisbe's mantle, and exit. Capell.*

266 beames] gleams *Staunton, Knight's conjecture.*

268 The following "Sonet" from *Clement Robinson's A Handefull of pleasant delites*, Arber's Reprint, pp. 30-32, shows marked coincidences with parts of this Enterlude, both in words and rhythm.

*A new Sonet of Pyramus and Thisbie.**To the [tune of], Downe right Squier.*

[Y]Ou Dames (I say) that climbe the mount of *Helicon*,
 Come on with me, and giue account, what hath been
 don :
 Come tell the chaunce ye Muses all, and dolefull newes,
 Which on these Louers did befall, which I accuse.
 In *Babilon* not long agone, a noble Prince did dwell :
 whose daughter bright dimd ech ones sight, so farre she
 did excel.

¶ An other Lord of high renowne, who had a sonne :
 And dwelling there within the towne, great loue be-
 gunne :
Pyramus this noble Knight, I tel you true :
 Who with the loue of *Thisbie* bright, did cares renue :
 It came to passe, their secrets was, beknowne vnto them
 both :
 And then in minde, they place do finde, where they their
 loue vnclothe.

¶ This loue they vse long tract of time, till it befell :
 At last they promised to meet at prime, by *Minus* well :
 Where they might louingly imbrace, in loutes delight :
 That he might see his *Thisbies* face, and she his sight :
 In ioyful case, she approcht the place, where she her
Pyramus
 Had thought to viewd, but was renewd, to them most
 dolorous.

¶ Thus while she staies for *Pyramus*, there did proceed :
 Out of the wood a Lion fierce, made *Thisbie* dreed :
 And as in haste she fled awaie, her Mantle fine :
 The Lion tare in stead of praie, till that the time
 That *Pyramus* proceeded thus, and see how lion tare
 The Mantle this of *Thisbie* his, he desperately doth fare.

¶ For why he thought the lion had, faire *Thisbie* slaine.
 And then the beast with his bright blade, he slew cer-
 taine :
 Then made he mone and said alas, (O wretched wight)
 Now art thou in a woful case for *Thisbie* bright :
 Oh Gods aboue, my faithfull loue shal neuer faile this
 need :
 For this my breath by fatall death, shal weaue *Atropos*
 threed.

¶ Then from his sheathe he drew his blade, and to his hart
 He thrust the point, and life did vade, with painfull
 smart :
 Then *Thisbie* she from cabin came with pleasure great,
 And to the well apase she ran, there for to treat :
 And to discusse, to *Pyramus* of al her former feares.
 And when slaine she, found him truly, she shed fourth
 bitter teares.

¶ When sorrow great that she had made, she took in hand
 The bloudie knife, to end her life, by fatall hand.

You Ladies all, peruse and see, the faithfulness,
 How these two louers did agree, to die in distresse:
 You Muses waile, and do not faile, but still do you
 lament:
 These louers twaine, who with such paine, did die so
 well content.

Finis.

I. Thomson.

- 291 [*Stabs himself. (om. Delius.)*
 297 [*Exit Moonshine. Capell.*
 298 [*Dies. Capell.*
 304 ?] *om. Rowe.*
 310 Moth (*Delius*)] mote *Steevens, Heath's conjecture.*
 334 [*Stabs herself. (om. Delius.)*
 340 *Bot. (Starting up.) Capell. (om. Delius, Hudson.)*
 350 [*A dance. Capell.*
 359 (SCENE II. *Capell, Delius.*)
 lion] *Rowe.*
 360 beholds] behowls *Theobald, Warburton.*
 388 *The Song.] Song and dance. Capell.*
 407-8 These lines were transposed by *Staunton*, who
 is followed by *Clar. Press, Globe, Hudson, Rolfe,*
 and *White.*
 410 [*Exeunt King, Queen, and train. Capell.*

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

(First given by Rowe.)

THESEUS, Duke of Athens.

EGEUS, father to Hermia.

LYSANDER, } in love with Hermia.

DEMETRIUS, }

PHILOSTRATE, master of the revels to Theseus.

QUINCE, a carpenter.

SNUG, a joiner.

BOTTOM, a weaver.

FLUTE, a bellows-mender.

SNOUT, a tinker.

STARVELING, a tailor.

HIPPOLYTA, queen of the Amazons, betrothed to Theseus.

HERMIA, daughter to Egeus, in love with Lysander.

HELENA, in love with Demetrius.

OBERON, king of the fairies.

TITANIA, queen of the fairies.

PUCK, or Robin Goodfellow.

PEASEBLOSSOM, }

COBWEB, } fairies

MOTH, }

MUSTARDSEED, }

Prologue, }

Pyramus, }

Thisbe, }

Wall, }

Moonshine, }

Lion, }

Characters in the Interlude performed by the Clowns.

Other fairies attending their King and Queen. Attendants on Theseus and Hippolyta.

SCENE. *Athens, and a wood not far from it.*



A
M I D S O M M E R
Nights Dreame.

Actus primus.

Enter Theseus, Hippolita, with others.

Theseus.

Now faire Hippolita, our nuptiall houre [145]
Drawes on apace: foure happy daies bring in
Another Moon: but oh, me thinkes, how flow
This old Moon wanes; She lingers my desires
Like to a Step-dame, or a Dowager, 5
Long withering out a yong mans reuennew.

Hip. Foure daies wil quickly steepe theselues in nights
Foure nights wil quickly dreame away the time:
And then the Moone, like to a siluer bow,
Now bent in heauen, shal behold the night 10
Of our solemnities.

The. Go Philostrate,

Stirre vp the Athenian youth to merriments,
Awake the pert and nimble spirit of mirth,
Turne melancholy forth to Funerals:
The pale companion is not for our pompe, 15
Hippolita, I woo'd thee with my sword,
And wonne thy loue, doing thee iniuries:
But I will wed thee in another key,
With pompe, with triumph, and with reuelling.

*Enter Egeus and his daughter Hermia, Lyfander,
and Demetrius.*

Ege. Happy be *Theseus*, our renowned Duke. 20

The. Thanks good *Egeus*: what's the news with thee?

Ege. Full of vexation, come I, with complaint
Against my childe, my daughter Hermia.

Stand forth Demetrius.

FR2 *Actus primus.*] om. FR ¹hower F ²Draws F apase F fower F
³An other F ⁴Moone FR ⁵me thinks F ⁶me-thinks R ⁷Moone FR
waues F ;] F : R -sires, F ⁸-.]om. F -dam R ⁹young R reue-
newe F reuennew R ¹⁰Fower F will FR steepe FR night: F ¹¹Fower F
nights]daies R will FR ¹²bowe F ¹³shall FR beholde F ¹⁴Goe FR
¹⁵peart FR ¹⁶foorth FR ¹⁷pomp F .] FR ¹⁸Hyp- F ¹⁹reuelling F
Lyfander] and *Lyfander* and *Helena* F and *Lyfander, Helena* R
²⁰Thanks F .] FR Whats F newes FR ²¹FR3 ²²foorth R *Deme-* FR

My Noble Lord,
This man hath my consent to marrie her. 25

Stand forth Lysander.

And my gracious Duke,
This man hath bewitch'd the bosome of my childe:
Thou, thou *Lysander*, thou hast giuen her rimes,
And interchang'd loue-tokens with my childe:
Thou hast by Moone-light at her window fung, 30
With faining voice, verses of faining loue,
And stolne the impressiō of her fantasie,
With bracelets of thy haire, rings, gawdes, conceits,
Knackes, trifles, Noīe-gaies, sweet meats (messengers
Of strong preuailment in vnhardned youth) 35
With cunning hast thou filch'd my daughters heart, [145⁹]
Turn'd her obedience (which is due to me)
To stubborne harshnesse. And my gracious Duke,
Be it so she will not heere before your Grace,
Consent to marrie with *Demetrius*, 40
I beg the ancient priuiledge of Athens;
As she is mine, I may dispose of her;
Which shall be either to this Gentleman,
Or to her death, according to our Law,
Immediately provided in that case. 45

The. What say you *Hermia*? be aduis'd faire Maide,
To you your Father should be as a God;
One that compos'd your beauties; yea and one
To whom you are but as a forme in waxe
By him imprinted: and within his power, 50
To leaue the figure, or disfigure it:
Demetrius is a worthy Gentleman.

Her. So is *Lysander*.

The. In himselfe he is.

But in this kinde, wanting your fathers voyce.
The other must be held the worthier. 55

Her. I would my father look'd but with my eyes.

The. Rather your eyes must with his iudgment looke.

Her. I do entreat your Grace to pardon me.

I know not by what power I am made bold,

²⁵-ry FR ²⁶foorth R *Lif* F -tious F ²⁷-witcht FR ;]. F ²⁸loue
tokens FR ²⁹haft, F -light, F -dowe F ³⁰phantasie: F ³¹-ceites F
³²Knacks R -lom. FR ³³sweete F ³⁴meates FR ³⁵-uailment FR
³⁶-dened FR ³⁷filcht FR ³⁸Turnd FR mee F ³⁹And, F -tious F
⁴⁰fo, F here, F here R ⁴¹-ry FR ⁴²aun- F ;]. F ⁴³;]. F ⁴⁴be, F
⁴⁵;]. F ⁴⁶lawe F ⁴⁷-atly FR -ded, F ⁴⁸you, F -uif'd, FR maid FR
⁴⁹;]. F ⁵⁰you, F ⁵¹shoud R ;]. FR ⁵²;]. F ⁵³one, FR ⁵⁴whome F
wax, F wax R ⁵⁵;]. FR ⁵⁶*Lif* F is: / F is. / R ⁵⁷voice F .]. FR
⁵⁸FR4 lookt FR ⁵⁹eyes FR must, F iudgement, F iudgement R .]. F
⁶⁰doe F ⁶¹intreat F ⁶²intreate R ⁶³grace, F mee F ⁶⁴power, F ⁶⁵bould; F

I. 1. 60-96.] *A Midsummer nights Dreame.* 3

Nor how it may concerne my modestie 60

In such a preſence heere to pleade my thoughts :

But I beſeech your Grace, that I may know

The worſt that may befall me in this caſe,

If I reſuſe to wed *Demetrius*.

The. Either to dye the death, or to abiure 65

For euer the ſociety of men.

Therefore faire *Hermia* queſtion your deſires,

Know of your youth, examine well your blood,

Whether (if you yeeld not to your fathers choiſe)

You can endure the liuerie of a Nunne, 70

For aye to be in ſhady Cloiſter mew'd,

To liue a barren ſiſter all your life,

Chanting faint hymnes to the cold fruitleſſe Moone,

Thrice bleſſed they that maſter ſo their blood, 75

To vndergo ſuch maiden pilgrimage,

But earthlier happie is the Roſe diſtil'd,

Then that which withering on the virgin thorne,

Growes, liues, and dies, in ſingle bleſſedneſſe.

Her. So will I grow, ſo liue, ſo die my Lord, [146¹]

Ere I will yeeld my virgin Patent vp 80

Vnto his Lordſhip, whoſe vnwiſhed yoake,

My ſoule conſents not to giue ſoueraignty.

The. Take time to pauſe, and by the next new Moon

The ſealing day betwixt my loue and me,

For euerlaſting bond of fellowſhip : 85

Vpon that day either prepare to dye,

For diſobedience to your fathers will,

Or elſe to wed *Demetrius* as hee would,

Or on *Dianaes* Altar to proteſt

For aie, auſterity, and ſingle life. 90

Dem. Relent ſweet *Hermia*, and *Lyſander*, yeelde

Thy crazed title to my certaine right.

Lyf. You haue her fathers loue, *Demetrius* :

Let me haue *Hermiaes* : do you marry him.

Egeus. Scornfull *Lyſander*, true, he hath my Loue ; 95

Aud what is mine, my loue ſhall render him.

⁶⁰ modeſty, FR ⁶¹ preſence, here FR ⁶² plead FR ;: R ⁶³ knowe F
⁶⁴ mee F ⁶⁵ dy F ⁶⁶ die R ⁶⁷ abiure, F ⁶⁸ euer, F ⁶⁹ Therefore, F
Hermia, FR ⁷⁰ Knowe F ⁷¹ yeelde F ⁷² choiſe FR ⁷³ liuery FR
⁷⁴ cloyſter, F ⁷⁵ om. FR ⁷⁶ barraine F ⁷⁷ Chaunting F ⁷⁸ hymnes, F
⁷⁹ colde FR ⁸⁰ J. FR ⁸¹ Thrife F ⁸² they, F ⁸³ bloode F ⁸⁴ vndergoe F
⁸⁵ J. F ⁸⁶ earthyer F ⁸⁷ happy FR ⁸⁸ diſtil'd FR ⁸⁹ that, which, F ⁹⁰ growe F
⁹¹ dye R ⁹² yeeld F ⁹³ Patent, F ⁹⁴ ſhippe F ⁹⁵ yoake,] yoake FR ⁹⁶ ainty FR
⁹⁷ pawle F ⁹⁸ newe F ⁹⁹ moone, FR ¹⁰⁰ day, F ¹⁰¹ mee F ¹⁰² ſhippe, F
¹⁰³ ius, FR ¹⁰⁴ he FR ¹⁰⁵ wold R ¹⁰⁶ -teſt, FR ¹⁰⁷ aye FR ¹⁰⁸ -tie and F ¹⁰⁹ FR
¹¹⁰ Relent, F ¹¹¹ ſweete FR ¹¹² and, F ¹¹³ yeeld FR ¹¹⁴ -mias FR ¹¹⁵ doe F
¹¹⁶ Scornefull F ;: F ¹¹⁷ And FR

And she is mine, and all my right of her,
I do estate vnto *Demetrius*.

Lyf. I am my Lord, as well deriu'd as he,
As well poſſeſt : my loue is more then his : 100
My fortunes euery way as fairely ranck'd
(If not with vantage) as *Demetrius* :
And (which is more then all theſe boaſts can be)
I am belou'd of beauteous *Hermia*.
Why ſhould not I then proſecute my right ? 105
Demetrius, Ile auouch it to his head,
Made loue to *Nedars* daughter, *Helena*,
And won her ſoule : and ſhe (ſweet Ladie) dotes,
Deuoutly dotes, dotes in Idolatry,
Vpon this ſpotted and inconstant man. 110

The. I muſt confeſſe, that I haue heard ſo much,
And with *Demetrius* thought to haue ſpoke thereof :
But being ouer-full of ſelfe-affaires,
My minde did loſe it. But *Demetrius* come,
And come *Egeus*, you ſhall go with me, 115
I haue ſome priuate ſchooling for you both.
For you faire *Hermia*, looke you arme your ſelfe,
To fit your fancies to your Fathers will ;
Or elſe the Law of Athens yeelds you vp
(Which by no meanes we may extenuate) 120
To death, or to a vow of ſingle life.
Come my *Hippolita*, what cheare my loue ?
Demetrius and *Egeus* go along :
I muſt imploy you in ſome buſineſſe
Againſt our nuptiall, and conferre with you 125
Of ſomething, neerely that concerns your ſelues.

Ege. With dutie and deſire we follow you. *Exeunt*

Manet Lyſander and Hermia.

Lyf. How now my loue ? Why is your cheek ſo pale ?
How chance the Roſes there do fade ſo faſt ?

Her. Belike for want of raine, which I could well 130
Beteeme them, from the tempeſt of mine eyes.

Lyf. For ought that euer I could reade,
Could euer heare by tale or hiſtorie,

⁹⁷ her,] her FR ⁹⁸ doe F ⁹⁹ hee FR ¹⁰⁰ than F ¹⁰¹ rankt F
ranckt R ¹⁰² boastes F ¹⁰⁴ -tious FR ¹⁰⁶ heade F ¹⁰⁸ ſweete FR
Lady R ¹¹¹ much ; F ¹¹² And, F ^{-ius}, FR :]; R ¹¹⁵ But, F
ouer full FR ſelfe af- F ¹¹⁴ loofe F ¹¹⁶ goe F mee : F ¹¹⁷ you, faire F
¹¹⁸ -cies, F ¹¹⁹ elſe, F ¹²¹ vowe F ¹²² *Hippolita* : F ,]; R ¹²³ goe FR
¹²⁴ employ F ^{-neſſe}, F ¹²⁶ FR some thing F ¹²⁷ duety F
duty R deſire, FR *Manet Lyſander and Hermia*] om. FR ¹²⁸ cheekes FR
¹²⁹ doe F ¹³⁰ Belike, F ,]; F ; R ¹³¹ my FR ¹³² For] Eigh me : for F
Eigh me ; for R aught F euer I could] I could euer FR ¹³³ here F
-ry FR



The course of true loue neuer did run smooth,
But either it was different in blood. 135

Her. O crosse! too high to be enthrall'd to loue.

Lys. Or else misgraffed, in respect of yeares.

Her. O spight! too old to be ingag'd to yong.

Lys. Or else it stood vpon the choise of merit.

Her. O hell! to choose loue by anothers eie. 140

Lys. Or if there were a simparchie in choise,

Warre, death, or sicknesse, did lay siege to it;

Making it momentarie, as a sound:

Swift as a shadow, short as any dreame, [146²]

Briefe as the lightning in the collied night, 145

That (in a spleene) vnfolde both heauen and earth;

And ere a man hath power to say, behold,

The iawes of darknesse, do deuoure it vp:

So quicke bright things come to confusion.

Her. If then true Louers haue beene euer crost, 150

It stands as an edict in destinie:

Then let vs teach our triall patience,

Because it is a custumarie crosse,

As due to loue, as thoughts, and dreames, and fighes,

Wishes and teares; poore Fancies followers. 155

Lys. A good perswasion; therefore heare me *Hermia*,

I haue a Widdow Aunt, a dowager,

Of great reuennue, and she hath no childe,

From Athens is her house remou'd seuen leagues,

And she respects me, as her onely sonne: 160

There gentle *Hermia*, may I marrie thee,

And to that place, the sharpe Athenian Law

Cannot pursue vs. If thou lou'st me, then

Steale forth thy fathers house to morrow night:

And in the wood, a league without the towne, 165

(Where I did meete thee once with *Helena*,

To do obseruance for a morne of May)

There will I stay for thee.

Her. My good *Lyfander*,

¹³⁴ runne smoothe FR .; F ¹³⁵ bloud; FR ¹³⁶ inthrald FR ¹³⁷ .; FR ¹³⁸ olde FR young F ¹³⁹ else, F ¹⁴⁰ stooode F choyce F merit.] friends; FR ¹⁴¹ .; FR eyes FR .; F ¹⁴² Or, FR ¹⁴³ sympathy F sympathy R ¹⁴⁴ choyce F ¹⁴⁵ death or F ¹⁴⁶ sledge R ¹⁴⁷ momentany FR .; FR ¹⁴⁸ Swift, F ¹⁴⁹ shadowe F .; FR ¹⁵⁰ short, F .; FR ¹⁵¹ Briefe, F ¹⁵² lightening R ¹⁵³ And, F ¹⁵⁴ beholde F ¹⁵⁵ darkenesse F ¹⁵⁶ bin FR ¹⁵⁷ edict, F ¹⁵⁸ ny FR ¹⁵⁹ patience: F ¹⁶⁰ ary FR ¹⁶¹ dewe F ¹⁶² Wishes, F ¹⁶³ .; FR mee, F me, R .; FR ¹⁶⁴ widowe F widow R Ant R ¹⁶⁵ reuennue FR childe: F ¹⁶⁶ remou'd] remote, F remote R seauen F ¹⁶⁷ .; F ¹⁶⁸ respects mee F only F ¹⁶⁹ FR7 There, F marry FR .; F ¹⁷⁰ can not F louest FR mee F ¹⁷¹ house, FR ¹⁷² towne,] towne FR ¹⁷³ .; om. F ¹⁷⁴ for] to FR

6 *A Midsummer nights Dreame.* [I. I. 169-203.]

I sweare to thee, by Cupids strongest bow,
By his best arrow with the golden head, 170
By the simplicitie of Venus Doues,
By that which knitteth soules, and prospers loue,
And by that fire which burn'd the Carthage Queene,
When the false Troyan vnder faile was seene,
By all the vowes that euer men haue broke, 175
(In number more then euer women spoke)
In that same place thou hast appointed me,
To morrow truly will I meete with thee.

Lyf. Keepe promise loue : looke here comes *Helena*.

Enter Helena.

Her. God speede faire *Helena*, whither away? 180

Hel. Cal you me faire? that faire againe vnay,

Demetrius loues you faire : O happie faire !

Your eyes are loadstarres, and your tongues sweet ayre
More tuneable then Larke to shepheards eare,
When wheate is greene, when hauthorne buds appeare, 185
Sickeesse is catching : O were fauor so,

Your words I catch, faire *Hermia* ere I go,
My eare should catch your voice, my eye, your eye,
My tongue should catch your tongues sweet melodie,
Were the world mine, *Demetrius* being bated, 190
The rest Ile giue to be to you translated.

O teach me how you looke, and with what art
you fway the motion of *Demetrius* hart.

Her. I frowne vpon him, yet he loues me still.

Hel. O that your frownes would teach my smiles 195
such skil.

Her. I giue him curles, yet he giues me loue.

Hel. O that my prayers could such affection mouue.

Her. The more I hate, the more he followes me.

Hel. The more I loue, the more he hateth me.

Her. His folly *Helena* is none of mine. 200

Hel. None but your beauty, wold that fault wer mine

Her. Take comfort : he no more shall see my face,
Lyfander and my selfe will flie this place.

169 bowe F 170 arrowe, F arrow, R heade F 171 -ty R 172 loues F
173 fire, F burnd FR 174 *Troian* F sayle R 177 mee F 178 truely FR
179 :], R looke, F 180 ,]: F 181 Call FR mee F ,]. F 182 you] your FR
happy FR 183 loadstars R sweete aire F 184 tunable F larke, F
sheepeheards F 185 wheat F buddes F ,]. F 186 O, F fauour FR
187 -mia, F goe FR 189 sweete F -dy FR ,]. F 192 O, F mee F
Art, FR 193 You FR heart FR 194 FR8 ,]: F hee F mee F
195 frowns FR wold R .]om. R skil./FR 196 ,]: F mee F 198 mee F
199 mee F 200 folly, FR *Helena*, F none] no fault F 201 ,]: F would F
were FR mine. FR 202 ,]: F 203 fly FR

Before the time I did *Lyfander* see,
Seem'd Athens like a Paradise to mee. 205
O then, what graces in my Loue do dwell, [147']
That he hath turn'd a heauen into hell.

Lyf. Helen, to you our mindes we will vnfold,
To morrow night, when *Phæbe* doth behold
Her siluer vifage, in the watry glasse, 210
Decking with liquid pearle, the bladed grasse
(A time that Louers flights doth still conceale)
Through *Athens* gates, haue we deuis'd to steale.

Her. And in the wood, where often you and I,
Vpon faint Primrose beds, were wont to lye,
Emptying our bosomes, of their counsell sweld: 215
There my *Lyfander*, and my selfe shall meete,
And thence from *Athens* turne away our eyes
To seeke new friends and strange companions,
Farwell sweet play-fellow, pray thou for vs, 220
And good lucke grant thee thy *Demetrius*.
Keepe word *Lyfander* we must starue our sight,
From louers foodde, till morrow deepe midnight.

Exit Hermia.

Lyf. I will my *Hermia*. *Helena* adieu,
As you on him, *Demetrius* dotes on you. *Exit Lyfander.* 225

Hele. How happy some, ore other some can be?
Through *Athens* I am thought as faire as she.
But what of that? *Demetrius* thinkes not so:
He will not know, what all, but he doth know,
And as hee erres, doting on *Hermias* eyes; 230
So I, admiring of his qualities:
Things base and vilde, holding no quantity,
Loue can transpoe to forme and dignity,
Loue lookes not with the eyes, but with the minde,
And therefore is wing'd *Cupid* painted blinde. 235
Nor hath loues minde of any iudgement taste:
Wings and no eyes, figure, vnheedy haste.
And therefore is Loue faid to be a childe,
Because in choise he is often beguill'd,
As waggiſh boyes in game themselues forswear; 240

204 *Li.* F 205 like] as F -dice R me R 206 dooe F 207 hee F
turn'd F into] unto a F .]! F 208 wee F vnfold: F 209 beholde F
211 ing, F 212 time, FR 213 wee F deuifed R 214 Pimrose R beddes F
215 .], FR 216 thence, from *Athens*, F eyes, F 219 .], FR 220 Farewell, F
sweete FR -]om. F .]: F .]: F 221 graunt F 222 -der: F 224 .]: F
225 dote FR 226 happie F -some, F ?]! F 227 -ens, F shee F
228 FR*R 229 knowe FR* hee FR* doe FR* do R know. FR*
230 he R .]: FR* 231 .]: FR* 232 vile FR*R -tie FR* 233 -tie. FR*
234 minde: FR* 235 wingd FR*R 237 Wings, FR*R 238 bee FR*
.]: FR* 239 Because, in choyce, FR* often] so oft FR* oft R
beguilde R .], FR* 240 boyes, in game, FR* .]: FR*

So the boy Loue is periur'd euery where.
 For ere *Demetrius* lookt on *Hermias* eyne,
 He hail'd downe oathes that he was onely mine.
 And when this Haile some heat from *Hermia* felt,
 So he diffolu'd, and showres of oathes did melt, 245
 I will goe tell him of faire *Hermias* flight:
 Then to the wood will he, to morrow night
 Purfue her; and for his intelligence,
 If I haue thanks, it is a deere expence:
 But heerein meane I to enrich my paine, 250
 To haue his sight thither, and backe againe. *Exit.*

*Enter Quince the Carpenter, Snug the Ioyner, Bottome the [I. 2.
 Weaver, Flute the bellows-mender, Snout the Tinker, and
 Starueling the Taylor.*

Quin. Is all our company heere?

Bot. You were best to call them generally, man by man, according to the scrip.

Qui. Here is the scrowle of euery mans name, which is thought fit through all *Athens*, to play in our Enterlude before the Duke and the Dutches, on his wedding day at night. 5

Bot. First, good *Peter Quince*, say what the play treats on: then read the names of the Actors: and so grow on to a point. 10

Quin. Marry our play is the most lamentable Comedy, and most cruell death of *Pyramus* and *Thisbie*.

Bot. A very good peece of worke I assure you, and a merry. Now good *Peter Quince*, call forth your Actors [147] by the scrowle. Masters spread your selues. 15

Quince. Answere as I call you. *Nick Bottome* the Weaver.

Bottome. Ready; name what part I am for, and proceed.

Quince. You *Nicke Bottome* are set downe for *Pyramus*. 20

²⁴¹ So, FR* boy, Loue, FR* ²⁴² For, FR* eyen FR* ²⁴³ Hee FR*
 hayld FR* haild R othes, FR* ²⁴⁴ this] his R haile, R heate, FR*
 heate R -mia, FR* ²⁴⁵ -folued FR* showrs FR*], FR* ²⁴⁶ go R
²⁴⁷ Then, FR* wood] wodde, FR* night, FR* ²⁴⁸]; FR* his] this FR*R
²⁴⁹ thanks R deare FR*R expence FR* ²⁵⁰ herein FR* ²⁵¹ back FR*
 Quince, F], FR* and Snugge, FR*], FR* and Bottom, FR*
], FR* and Flute, FR* Bellows mender FR* -lows R]; FR*
 & Snout, FR*], FR* -ler FR* ¹ Quin. F ² to] om. R scrippe FR*R
³ thoght R fit, FR* al FR* -lude, FR*R ⁴ Duke, FR* ⁵ night, R
⁶], om. FR*R ⁷ Peeter FR* ⁸ grow on] grow FR*R ⁹ FR*R10
 Mary, FR* ¹² by FR* ¹³ worke, FR*R ¹⁴ Peeter FR* foorth R
 Actors, FR* ¹⁵ Masters, spreade FR* ¹⁶ Answere, FR* Answer R
 -om, FR* ¹⁷], FR* ¹⁸ die: FR* ¹⁹ -ceede FR* ²⁰ You, FR*
Nick FR*R -om FR*

Bot. What is *Pyramus*, a louer, or a tyrant?

Quin. A Louer that kills himselfe most gallantly for loue.

Bot. That will aske some teares in the true performing of it: if I do it, let the audience looke to their eies: I will mooue stormes; I will condole in some meafure. To the rest yet, my chiefe humour is for a tyrant. I could play *Ercles* rarely, or a part to teare a Cat in, to make all split the raging Rocks; and shiuering shocks shall break the locks of prison gates, and *Phibbus* carre shall shine from farre, and make and marre the foolish Fates. This was lofty. Now name the rest of the Players. This is *Ercles* vaine, a tyrants vaine: a louer is more condoling.

Quin. *Francis Flute* the Bellows-mender.

Flu. Heere *Peter Quince*.

Quin. You must take *Thisbie* on you.

Flut. What is *Thisbie*, a wandring Knight?

Quin. It is the Lady that *Pyramus* must loue.

Flut. Nay faith, let not mee play a woman, I haue a beard comming.

Qui. That's all one, you shall play it in a Maske, and you may speake as small as you will.

Bot. And I may hide my face, let me play *Thisbie* too: Ile speake in a monstrous little voyce; *Thisne*, *Thisne*, ah *Pyramus* my louer deare, thy *Thisbie* deare, and Lady deare.

Quin. No no, you must play *Pyramus*, and *Flute*, you *Thisby*.

Bot. Well, proceed.

Qu. *Robin Starueling* the Taylor.

Star. Heere *Peter Quince*.

Quince. *Robin Starueling*, you must play *Thisbies* mother?

Tom Snowt, the Tinker.

Snowt. Heere *Peter Quince*.

Quin. You, *Pyramus* father; my self, *Thisbies* father;

²² -mus? FR* ²³ kills FR*R -selfe, FR* gallant, FR*R ²⁵ perfourm-
ing R ²⁶ .]. FR* , R doe FR*R eyes FR*R ²⁷ wil FR* moue R
;]: FR* -dole, FR* ³¹ .]: FR* ³² shocks, FR* ³³ breake FR*R
⁴⁰ -tie FR* Now, FR* ⁴³ *Flute*, FR* Bellows mender FR* .] FR*
⁴⁴ Here *Peeter* FR* ⁴⁵ You] *Flute*, you FR* -by, FR* -by R ⁴⁶ *Fla.* FR*
-by? FR*R ⁴⁷ Lady, FR* ⁴⁸ .]: FR* me FR*R womā: FR*
⁴⁹ cō-/ming FR* .]om. R ⁵⁰ Thats FR* al R .]: FR* shal R
;]: FR* ⁵² -by to FR*R ⁵³ voice FR* ⁵⁴ -mus, FR* -by FR*R
⁵⁵ No no,] No, no: FR* -mus: FR* ⁵⁷ *Thys.* FR* ⁵⁸ -ceede FR*
⁵⁹ -ling, FR* Tailer FR* Tailor R ⁶⁰ Here *Peeter* FR* ⁶¹ *Thys/bye* FR*
⁶² ?]: FR*R ⁶³ FR11 *Snowte* F .] F ⁶⁴ Here FR ⁶⁵ selfe FR

Snugge the Ioyner, you the Lyons part : and I hope there is a play fitted.

Snug. Haue you the Lions part written? pray you if be, giue it me, for I am slow of studie.

Quin. You may doe it *extemporie*, for it is nothing 70 but roaring.

Bot. Let mee play the Lyon too, I will roare that I will doe any mans heart good to heare me. I will roare, that I will make the Duke say, Let him roare againe, let him roare againe. 75

Quin. If you should doe it too terribly, you would fright the Dutchesse and the Ladies, that they would fhrike, and that were enough to hang vs all.

All. That would hang vs euery mothers sonne.

Bottome. I graunt you friends, if that you should 80 fright the Ladies out of their Wittes, they would haue no more discretion but to hang vs : but I will aggrauate my voyce so, that I will roare you as gently as any sucking Doue ; I will roare and 'twere any Nightingale. 85

Quin. You can play no part but *Piramus*, for *Piramus* is a sweet-fac'd man, a proper man as one shall see in [148] a summers day ; a most louely Gentleman-like man, therefore you must needs play *Piramus*.

Bot. Well, I will vndertake it. What beard were I 90 best to play it in ?

Quin. Why, what you will.

Bot. I will discharge it, in either your straw-colour beard, your orange tawnie beard, your purple in graine beard, or your French-crowne colour'd beard, your perfect yellow. 95

Quin. Some of your French Crownes haue no haire at all, and then you will play bare-fac'd. But masters here are your parts, and I am to intreat you, request you, and desire you, to con them by too morrow night : and meet 100 me in the palace wood, a mile without the Towne, by Moone-light, there we will rehearse : for if we meete in

⁶⁶ Snugge, F there] here FR ⁶⁸ Lyons FR you, F if] if it FR ⁶⁹ bee F mee : F flowe FR -dy R ⁷⁰ do R it, F -pore : F -pore, R ⁷² me R to. F roare, FR ⁷³ do R mee F ⁷⁴ say ; F againe : F againe, R ⁷⁶ If] And F do FR ⁷⁷ -effe, F ⁷⁸], F inough F ⁷⁹ vs, F ⁸⁰ grant FR you, F that] om. FR ⁸¹ wits FR ⁸² -tion, F ⁸³ voice F wil F -ly, F ⁸⁴], F roare] roare you, F roare you R t'were R ⁸⁶], F ⁸⁷ [sweete fac't F sweet fac't R], F fhal R ⁸⁸ fommers FR -]om. FR], F there- FR ⁸⁹ needes F ⁹⁰], F ⁹²], F ⁹³ wil F eyther R straw colour F ⁹⁴ -ny R bearde F ⁹⁵ french crowne colour FR perfit FR ⁹⁶], FR bare fac't FR maisters F heere R ⁹⁹ entreat R ¹⁰⁰ desire / FR13 too] to F meete FR ¹⁰¹ mee F ¹⁰²], F will wee F wee F

the Citie, we shalbe dog'd with company, and our deu-
fes knowne. In the meane time, I wil draw a bil of pro-
perties, such as our play wants. I pray you faile me not. 105

Bottom. We will meete, and there we may rehearse
more obscenely and couragiously. Take paines, be per-
fect, adieu.

Quin. At the Dukes oake we meete.

Bot. Enough, hold or cut bow-strings.

Exeunt 110

Actus Secundus.

*Enter a Fairie at one doore, and Robin good-
fellow at another.*

Rob. How now spirit, whether wander you?

Fai. Ouer hil, ouer dale, through bufh, through briar,
Ouer parke, ouer pale, through flood, through fire, 5
I do wander euerie where, fwifter then ¶ Moons sphere ;
And I serue the Fairy Queene, to dew her orbs vpon the
The Cowslips tall, her pensioners bee, (green. 10
In their gold coats, spots you see,
Those be Rubies, Fairie fauors,
In those freckles, liue their fauors,
I must go seeke some dew drops heere,
And hang a pearle in euery cowslips eare. 15
Farewell thou Lob of spirits, Ile be gon,
Our Queene and all her Elues come heere anon.

Rob. The King doth keepe his Reuels here to night,
Take heed the Queene come not within his sight,
For *Oberon* is pasing fell and wrath, 20
Because that she, as her attendant, hath
A louely boy stolne from an Indian King,
She neuer had so sweet a changeling,
And ieaious *Oberon* would haue the childe

¹⁰⁸ city F Citty R wee F shal be F shal be R dogd FR
¹⁰⁴ known F will FR bill FR ¹⁰⁶ Wee F ¹⁰⁷ more] most F -ly, F
cor- F bee F perfit FR ¹⁰⁸ ,] F ¹⁰⁹ Qnin F oke F wee F ¹¹⁰ ,] F
holde, F -]om. F *Actus Secundus*] om. FR ¶ *Enter* F *fairy* R
-]om. F ¹ whither F ² hill FR ³ thorough bush, thorough F brier FR
⁴ thorough flood, thorough fire : F ⁵ euery FR ,] F ⁶ than F ,] F
⁷ orbes R greene FR ⁸ -]ippes F ,]om. F be R ⁹ spottes F ,] F
¹⁰ -bies. Fairy R fauours FR ,] F ¹¹ fauours. F ¹² goe FR
droppes F here FR ¹³ coulippes F ¹⁴ Farwell R Lobbe F ,] F
gon. F gone, R ¹⁵ Queene, F here FR ¹⁶ heere R ,] F ¹⁷ heede F
,] F ¹⁸ ,] F ¹⁹ stollen, F stollen R ,] F ²⁰ sweete FR ,] F
²¹ childe, FR

Knight of his traine, to trace the Forrests wilde. 25
But she (perforce) with-holds the loued boy,
Crownes him with flowers, and makes him all her ioy.

And now they neuer meete in groue, or greene,
By fountaine cleere, or spangled star-light sheene,
But they do square, that all their Elues for feare 30
Creepe into Acorne cups and hide them there.

Fai. Either I mistake your shape and making quite,
Or else you are that shrew'd and knauish spirit
Cal'd Robin Good-fellow. Are you not hee,
That frights the maidens of the Villagree, 35
Skim milke, and sometimes labour in the querne,
And bootlesse make the breathlesse hufwife cherne,
And sometime make the drinke to beare no harme,
Misleade night-wanderers, laughing at their harme, [1482]
Those that Hobgoblin call you, and sweet Pucke, 40
You do their worke, and they shall haue good lucke.
Are not you he?

Rob. Thou speake'st aright;
I am that merrie wanderer of the night:
I iest to *Oberon*, and make him smile,
When I a fat and beane-fed horfe beguile, 45
Neighing in likenesse of a silly foale,
And sometime lurke I in a Goffips bole,
In very likenesse of a roasted crab:
And when she drinke, against her lips I bob,
And on her withered dewlop poure the Ale. 50
The wisest Aunt telling the saddest tale,
Sometime for three-foot stoole, mistaketh me,
Then slip I from her bum, downe topples she,
And tailour cries, and fals into a coffe.
And then the whole quire hold their hips, and loffe, 55
And waxen in their mirth, and neeze, and sweare,
A merrier houre vvas neuer wasted there.
But roome Fairy, heere comes *Oberon*.

Fair. And heere my Mistris:
Would that he vvere gone.

²⁵ shee, perforce, F she, perforce R withoulds F ²⁸ FR13 now, F
²⁹ cleare F -]om. FR ³⁰ doe F Elues, for feare, F ³¹ cups, FR
³² shape, and making, F ³³ els F shrewde F shrewd R sprite, F spirit, R
³⁴ Call'd FR -]om. F you not not you F ³⁵ Villageree F ³⁸ Misselead F
Misleade R -]om. F harme? F ⁴⁰ Those, F sweete Puck FR ⁴¹ doe F
luck F ⁴² hee F speakest F aright; I - night./FR ⁴³ -ry F :]. F, R
⁴⁴ ieast FR ⁴⁵]; FR ⁴⁶ Neyghing, F silly fole F ⁴⁷ goffippes F
⁴⁸ roasted FR crabbe F :], FR ⁵⁰ dewlop, F ⁵¹ Aunt, F ⁵² Sometime, F
three foote, FR mee : F ⁵³ flippe F bumme F ⁵⁴ cryes FR falles F :]; F
⁵⁵ hould F hippes F ⁵⁶ myrth F sweare,] sweare F ⁵⁷ hower F ⁵⁸ Faery : F
here FR ⁵⁹ here, F here R mistresse FR :]. F gon./F gone./R

*Enter the King of Fairies at one doore with his traine,
and the Queene at another with hers.*

Ob. Ill met by Moone-light,
Proud *Tytania*. 60

Qu. What, iealous *Oberon*? Fairy skip hence.
I haue forsworne his bed and companie.

Ob. Tarrie rash Wanton; am not I thy Lord?

Qu. Then I must be thy Lady: but I know
When thou vvasst stolne away from Fairy Land, 65

And in the shape of *Corin*, fate all day,
Playing on pipes of Corne, and versing loue

To amorous *Phillida*. Why art thou heere

Come from the farthest steepe of *India*?

But that forfooth the bouncing *Amazon* 70

Your buskin'd Mistresse, and your Warrior loue,

To *Theſeus* must be Wedded; and you come,

To giue their bed ioy and prosperitie.

Ob. How canst thou thus for shame *Tytania*,
Glance at my credite, vvith *Hippolita*? 75

Knowing I know thy loue to *Theſeus*?

Didst thou not leade him through the glimmering night

From *Peregénia*, whom he rauished?

And make him vvith faire Eagles breake his faith

With *Ariadne*, and *Atiopa*? 80

Que. These are the forgeries of iealousie,

And neuer since the middle Summers spring

Met vve on hil, in dale, forrest, or mead,

By pained fountaine, or by rushe brooke,

Or in the beached margent of the sea, 85

To dance our ringlets to the whistling Winde,

But vvith thy braules thou hast disturb'd our sport.

Therefore the Windes, piping to vs in vaine,

As in reuenge, haue suck'd vp from the sea

Contagious fogges: Which falling in the Land, 90

Hath euerie petty Riuer made so proud,

That they haue ouer-borne their Continents.

Fairies, F doore, F traine; F Queene, at another, F ⁶⁰ -]om. F
-nia./FR ⁶¹ FR14 skippe F ⁶² bedde, F -ny FR ⁶³ Tarry, F Tarry R
;]. F ⁶⁴ thy R ⁶⁵ hast stolen FR ⁶⁶ fat FR ⁶⁷ loue, FR ⁶⁸ here FR
⁶⁹ steppes F ⁷⁰ that, forfooth, the bounding *Amason*, F -son, R
⁷¹ buskind FR ⁷² warrior F ⁷³ bedde, F -ty R ⁷⁴ thus, F shame, FR
⁷⁵ Glaunce F credit F ⁷⁶ -ing, F ?]. FR ⁷⁷ thou not] not thou FR
lead F night, FR ⁷⁸ *Perig-* FR ⁷⁹ him, F Eagles, F ⁸⁰ *Antiope* FR
⁸¹ ;]. F ⁸² neuer, F Sommers spring, FR ⁸³ hill FR ⁸⁴ forrest or R
meade F ⁸⁵ rushe R ⁸⁶ daunce F ⁸⁷ brawles FR ⁸⁸ disturbd FR ⁸⁹ pyp- FR
⁹⁰ suckt FR ⁹¹ vp, F Sea, FR ⁹² foggs; R which, F ⁹³ euery pelting FR
proude F ⁹⁴ -]om. F

The Oxe hath therefore stretch'd his yoake in vaine,
 The Ploughman loft his sweate, and the greene Corne
 Hath rotted, ere his youth attain'd a beard : 95
 The fold stands empty in the drowned field,
 And Crows are fatted vvith the murrion flocke,
 The nine mens Morris is fild vp with mud, [149¹]
 And the queint Mazes in the wanton greene,
 For lacke of tread are vndistinguishable. 100
 The humane mortals want their winter heere,
 No night is now with hymne or caroll blest;
 Therefore the Moone (the gouerneffe of floods)
 Pale in her anger, wathes all the aire;
 That Rheumaticke diseases doe abound. 105
 And through this diftemperature, we see
 The seasons alter; hoared headed frosts
 Fall in the fresh lap of the crimson Rose,
 And on old *Hyems* chinne and Icie crowne,
 An odorous Chaplet of sweet Sommer buds 110
 Is as in mockry fet. The Spring, the Sommer,
 The childing Autumne, angry Winter change
 Their wonted Liueries, and the mazed world,
 By their increafe, now knowes not which is which;
 And this same progeny of euills, 115
 Comes from our debate, from our diffention,
 We are their parents and originall.
Ober. Do you amend it then, it lies in you,
 Why should *Titania* crosse her *Oberon*?
 I do but beg a little changeling boy, 120
 To be my Henchman.
Qu. Set your heart at rest,
 The Fairy land buyes not the childe of me,
 His mother was a Votresse of my Order,
 And in the spiced *Indian* aire, by night
 Full often hath she gossip by my side, 125
 And fat with me on *Neptunes* yellow sands,
 Marking th'embarked traders on the flood,
 When we haue laught to see the failes conceiue,
 And grow big bellied with the wanton winde:
 Which she with pretty and with swimming gate, 130

⁹⁸ stretcht FR yoke R ⁹⁸ attaine F attained R bearde F ⁹⁸ FR15
 empty, FR ⁹⁷ J. F ⁹⁸ mudde: F ⁹⁹ Mazes, F ¹⁰⁰ tread, FR ¹⁰¹ J. F
¹⁰² hymne R carroll FR J. F ¹⁰⁵ do R ¹⁰⁶ And, thorough F wee F
¹⁰⁷ J: F hoary F ¹⁰⁸ lappe F Crymson F ¹⁰⁹ Icy F ¹¹⁰ sweete FR
 buddes F ¹¹¹ Is, F mockery, F mockery R ¹¹² J: F worlde F ¹¹⁴ J: F
¹¹⁵ euils FR ¹¹⁶ -tion: F ¹¹⁸ Doe F J: F lyes FR J. F ¹²⁰ doe F
 begge F ¹²¹ J. F ¹²² Faery F buies FR mee F ¹²³ J: F ¹²⁴ ayer F
 night, F ¹²⁵ gossip, F ¹²⁶ fat, F Jom. F ¹²⁷ J: F ¹²⁸ conceaue F
¹²⁹ bigge bellied, F J: R ¹³⁰ FR16 she, with prettie, F

Following (her wombe then rich with my yong squire)
Would imitate, and faile vpon the Land,
To fetch me trifles, and returne againe,
As from a voyage, rich with merchandize.
But she being mortall, of that boy did die, 135
And for her sake I doe reare vp her boy,
And for her sake I will not part with him.

Ob. How long within this wood intend you stay?

Qu. Perchance till after *Thefeus* wedding day.

If you will patiently dance in our Round, 140
And see our Moone-light reuels, goe with vs ;
If not, shun me and I will spare your haunts.

Ob. Giue me that boy, and I will goe with thee.

Qu. Not for thy Fairy Kingdome. Fairies away :

We shall chide downe right, if I longer stay. *Exeunt.* 145

Ob. Wel, go thy way : thou shalt not from this groue,
Till I torment thee for this iniury.

My gentle *Pucke* come hither ; thou remembreth
Since once I sat vpon a promontory,
And heard a Meare-maide on a Dolphins backe, 150
Vttering such dulcet and harmonious breath,
That the rude sea grew ciuill at her song,
And certaine starres shot madly from their Spheares,
To heare the Sea-maids musicke.

Puc. I remember.

Ob. That very time I say (but thou couldst not) 155

Flying betweene the cold Moone and the earth,
Cupid all arm'd ; a certaine aime he tooke
At a faire Vestall, throned by the West,
And loos'd his loue-shaft smartly from his bow,
As it should pierce a hundred thousand hearts, 160
But I might see young *Cupids* fiery shaft
Quencht in the chaste beames of the watry Moone ; [149]
And the imperiall Votresse passed on,
In maiden meditation, fancy free.

Yet markt I where the bolt of *Cupid* fell. 165

It fell vpon a little westerne flower ;
Before, milke-white ; now purple with lous wound,
And maidens call it, Loue in idleneffe.

¹⁸¹ young FR ¹⁸⁴ marchandise F ¹⁸⁶ she, F dye FR ¹⁸⁶ And, F fake,
doe I F fake do I R ,:] F ¹⁸⁷ And, F fake, F ¹⁸⁸ long, F wood, en-
tend F ¹⁸⁹ Perchance, F ¹⁴⁰ daunce F ¹⁴¹ .]om. F Reuelles F go R
:] F ¹⁴² shunne me, F ¹⁴⁸ mee F go R ¹⁴⁴ Fairie R :] F ¹⁴⁵ downe-
right F ¹⁴⁶ Well FR ,:] F goe F :] F ¹⁴⁷ thee, F ¹⁴⁸ ;] F -breft, F
¹⁵⁰ Mearemaide, F ¹⁵¹ herm- F ¹⁵² grewe F ¹⁵³ certaine F ¹⁵⁵ time, I
saw F could't F ¹⁵⁶ colde FR ¹⁵⁷ *Cupid*, F :] F ¹⁵⁸ the]om. FR
¹⁵⁹ smartly, F bowe F ¹⁶⁰ pearce F ,:] F ¹⁶¹ But, F ¹⁶² chaff F :] F
¹⁶⁴ FR17 ¹⁶⁵ I, F fel R ¹⁶⁷ milke white F purple, F

16 *A Midsummer nights Dreame.* [II. 1. 169-202.]

Fetch me that flower ; the hearb I shew'd thee once,
The iuyce of it, on sleeping eye-lids laid, 170
Will make or man or woman madly dote
Vpon the next liue creature that it fees.
Fetch me this hearbe, and be thou heere againe,
Ere the *Leuiathan* can swim a league.

Pucke. Ile put a girdle about the earth, in forty mi- 175
nutes.

Ober. Hauing once this iuyce,
Ile watch *Titania*, when she is asleepe,
And drop the liquor of it in her eyes :
The next thing when she waking lookes vpon,
(Be it on Lyon, Beare, or Wolfe, or Bull, 180
On medling Monkey, or on busie Ape)
Shee shall pursue it, with the soule of loue.
And ere I take this charme off from her sight,
(As I can take it with another hearbe)
Ile make her render vp her Page to me. 185
But who comes heere ? I am inuisible,
And I will ouer-heare their conference.

Enter Demetrius, Helena following him.

Deme. I loue thee not, therefore pursue me not,
Where is *Lyfander*, and faire *Hermia* ?
The one Ile stay, the other stayeth me. 190
Thou toldst me they were stolne into this wood ;
And heere am I, and wood within this wood,
Because I cannot meet my *Hermia*.

Hence, get thee gone, and follow me no more.

Hel. You draw me, you hard-hearted Adamant, 195
But yet you draw not Iron, for my heart
Is true as Steele. Leaue you your power to draw,
And I shall haue no power to follow you.

Deme. Do I entice you ? do I speake you faire ?
Or rather doe I not in plainest truth, 200
Tell you I doe not, nor I cannot loue you ?

Hel. And euen for that doe I loue thee the more ;

¹⁶⁹ mee F flowre : F herbe F shewed F .j. F ¹⁷⁰ ieuwce F eyeliddes F
laide FR ¹⁷¹ dote, F ¹⁷² mee F herbe F here FR .j. om. F ¹⁷³ swimme F
¹⁷⁴ girdle, round about F ¹⁷⁵ iuice F ¹⁷⁶ when] whence R a sleepe F
¹⁷⁷ droppe F it, F ¹⁷⁸ when] then F she, waking, F .j. om. F ¹⁷⁹ Monky F
¹⁸⁰ She FR ¹⁸¹ charme, from of F .j. om. F ¹⁸² herbe F ¹⁸³ Page, F
mee F ¹⁸⁴ But, F here F ¹⁸⁵ .j. om. F ¹⁸⁶ not : there- F not. F
¹⁸⁷ .j. om. R ¹⁸⁸ .j. F ¹⁸⁹ me, F into] vnto FR .j. F ¹⁹⁰ here FR
wodde, within this wood : F ¹⁹¹ meete FR ¹⁹² thee] the F mee F
¹⁹³ mee F hard hearted F .j. F ¹⁹⁴ .j. F ¹⁹⁵ FR18 ¹⁹⁶ Doe I entise F
Doe F ¹⁹⁷ do R truthe F ¹⁹⁸ do R nor] not FR ¹⁹⁹ euen, for that, F
do FR thee] you, F .j. F



I am your spaniell, and *Demetrius*,
The more you beat me, I will fawne on you.
Vse me but as your spaniell ; spurne me, strike me, 205
Neglect me, lose me ; onely giue me leaue
(Vnworthy as I am) to follow you.
What worser place can I beg in your loue,
(And yet a place of high respect with me)
Then to be vsed as you doe your dogge. 210

Dem. Tempt not too much the hatred of my spirit,
For I am sicke when I do looke on thee.

Hel. And I am sicke when I looke not on you.

Dem. You doe impeach your modesty too much,
To leaue the Citty, and commit your selfe 215
Into the hands of one that loues you not,
To trust the opportunity of night,
And the ill counsell of a desert place,
With the rich worth of your virginity.

Hel. Your vertue is my priuiledge : for that 220
It is not night when I doe see your face.
Therefore I thinke I am not in the night,
Nor doth this wood lacke worlds of company,
For you in my respect are nll the world. [1501]

Then how can it be said I am alone, 225
When all the world is heere to looke on me ?

Dem. Ile run from thee, and hide me in the brakes,
And leaue thee to the mercy of wilde beafts.

Hel. The wildest hath not such a heart as you ;
Runne when you will, the story shall be chang'd : 230
Apollo flies, and *Daphne* holds the chase ;
The Doue pursues the Griffin, the milde Hinde
Makes speede to catch the Tyger. Bootlesse speede,
When cowardise pursues, and valour flies.

Demet. I will not stay thy questions, let me go ; 235
Or if thou follow me, doe not beleuee,
But I shall doe thee mischief in the wood.

Hel. I, in the Temple, in the Towne, and Field
You doe me mischief. Fye *Demetrius*,

²⁰³ ell : and, F ²⁰⁴ beate R mee F ²⁰⁵ ;]: F strike mee, F ²⁰⁶ mee,
loose me : F leave R ²⁰⁷ -thie F ²⁰⁸ begge, F ²⁰⁹ yet, F
mee F ²¹⁰ doe] vse FR dog R ²¹¹ not, too much, F ²¹² sick, F
²¹³ sick, F ²¹⁴ do R -tie F ²¹⁵ citie F selfe, F ²¹⁷ -tie F ²¹⁹ -tie F
²²¹ night, F do R ²²² Therefore, I thinke, F ²²³ ;]. F ²²⁴ you, F
respect, F nll] all FR ²²⁵ Then, F saide, F ²²⁶ here, F here R mee F
²²⁷ runne F ²²⁸ beastes F ²²⁹ ;]. F ²³⁰ ;]: F chaung'd FR ²³¹ flies R
;]. F *Daphna* R ;]: F ²³² -fon : F -fen, R ²³³ FR 19 speede F
Tigre F Tygre R Bootel- F ²³⁴ valor flies R ²³⁵ ;]. F goe : F ²³⁶ fol-
lowe mee F do FR ²³⁷ do R -chiefe, F ²³⁸ and] the F fiede, F
²³⁹ do R Fy F ;]. F

Your wrongs doe set a scandall on my sexe : 240
 We cannot fight for loue, as men may doe ;
 We should be woo'd, and were not made to wooe.
 I follow thee, and make a heauen of hell,
 To die vpon the hand I loue so well. *Exit.*

Ob. Fare thee well Nymph, ere he do leaue this groue, 245
 Thou shalt flie him, and he shall seeke thy loue.
 Haft thou the flower there? Welcome wanderer.

Enter Pucke.

Puck. I, there it is.

Ob. I pray thee giue it me.

I know a banke where the wilde time blowes,
 Where Oxslips and the nodding Violet growes, 250
 Quite ouer-cannop'd with luscious woodbine,
 With sweet muske roses, and with Eglantine ;
 There sleepes *Tytania*, sometime of the night,
 Lul'd in these flowers, with dances and delight :
 And there the snake throwes her enammel'd skinne, 255
 Weed wide enough to rap a Fairy in.
 And with the iuyce of this Ile streake her eyes,
 And make her full of hatefull fantasies.
 Take thou some of it, and seek through this groue ;
 A sweet *Athenian* Lady is in loue 260
 With a difdainefull youth : annoint his eyes,
 But doe it when the next thing he espies,
 May be the Lady. Thou shalt know the man,
 By the *Athenian* garments he hath on.
 Effect it with some care, that he may proue 265
 More fond on her, then she vpon her loue ;
 And looke thou meet me ere the first Cocke crow.

Pu. Feare not my Lord, your seruant shall do so. *Exit.*

Enter Queene of Fairies, with her traine. [II. 2.]

Queen. Come, now a Roundell, and a Fairy song ;
 Then for the third part of a minute hence,
 Some to kill Cankers in the muske rofe buds,
 Some warre with Reremise, for their leathern wings,
 To make my small Elues coates, and some keepe backe 5
 The clamorous Owle that nightly hoots and wonders

²⁴⁰ do R sex FR ²⁴¹ do R ;]: F ²⁴² I] Ile FR thee and FR ²⁴⁴ dy F
 dye R *Exit*] om. F ²⁴⁵ Nymph. F ²⁴⁶ fly F flye R ²⁴⁸ mee F ²⁵⁰ Ox-
 lips, F ²⁵¹ ouercanopi'd F ouercanop'd R luscious FR ²⁵² sweete FR
 ;]: F ²⁵⁴ Lul'd FR daunces F ²⁵⁵ -meld FR ²⁵⁶ rap] wrappe F
²⁵⁷ And, F this, FR ²⁵⁸ phan- F ²⁵⁹ seeke FR ;]: F ²⁶⁰ sweete FR
 loue, F ²⁶¹], F ²⁶² do R it, F ²⁶³ Ladie F ²⁶⁵]; F prooue FR
²⁶⁶ FR20 ;]: F ²⁶⁷ meete FR crowe F ²⁶⁸]; F *Exeunt* FR
Queene] *Tytania Queene* F ¹]; F ² Then, F ³ musk F ⁴ lethren F
⁵ Owle, FR hootes FR



At our queint spirits : Sing me now asleepe,
Then to your offices, and let me rest.

Fairies Sing.

*You spotted Snakes with double tongue,
Thorny Hedgehogges be not seene,* 10
*Newts and blinde wormes do no wrong,
Come not neere our Fairy Queene.*

*Philomele with melodic,
Sing in your sweet Lullaby,* [150°]
Lulla, lulla, lullaby, lulla, lulla, lullaby, 15
*Neuer harme, nor spell, nor charme,
Come our louely Lady nye,
So good night with Lullaby.*

2. Fairy. Weauing Spiders come not neere, 20
Hence you long leg'd Spinners, hence :
Beetles blacke approach not neere ;
Worme nor Snayle doe no offence.

Philomele with melody, &c.
1. Fairy. Hence away, now all is well ; 25
One aloofe, stand Centinell. Shee sleepes.

Enter Oberon.

Ober. What thou seeft when thou doft wake,
Doe it for thy true Loue take :
Loue and languish for his sake.
Be it Ounce, or Catte, or Beare, 30
Pard, or Boare with bristled haire,
In thy eye that shall appeare,
When thou wak'ft, it is thy deare,
Wake when some vile thing is neere.

Enter Lifander and Hermia.

Lif. Faire loue, you faint with wandring in y woods, 35
And to speake troth I haue forgot our way :
Wee'll rest vs *Hermia*, if you thinke it good,
And tarry for the comfort of the day.

Ber. Be it so *Lyfander* ; finde you out a bed,
For I vpon this banke will rest my head. 40

Lyf. One turfe shall serue as pillow for vs both,
One heart, one bed, two bofomes, and one troth.

⁷ a sleepe : F ⁸ mee F ⁹ Snakes, F ¹¹ blindewormes F ,]om. R
¹² -mele, F -dy FR ¹⁴ your] our FR ¹⁵ sweete F ¹⁶ sweett R ¹⁷ nigh F
], FR ¹⁸ night, F ²⁰ 2.]1. FR], F ²¹ legd FR *Spinders* R
²² approach R], F ²³ fnaile F do R ²⁵ 1.]2. FR], F], F
²⁶ *Shee sleepes*]om. FR ²⁷ feeft, F doest F ²⁸ Do R thy]thy thy R
²⁹ FR21 ³⁰], F ³¹ Wake, F *Lys-* FR -der : F ³² fainte, F wood : F
³³], F ³⁴ Wee F *Wee'l* R ³⁵ comfor F ³⁶ Be] Bet F], F
bedde : F ⁴⁰ I, F banke, F ⁴¹ turffe R ⁴² serue, as pillow, F ⁴³ bedde F

Her. Nay good *Lyfander*, for my fake my deere
Lie further off yet, doe not lie so neere.

Lyf. O take the fence sweet, of my innocence, 45
Loue takes the meaning, in loues conference,
I meane that my heart vnto yours is knit,
So that but one heart can you make of it.
Two bofomes interchanged with an oath,
So then two bofomes, and a single troth. 50
Then by your side, no bed-roome me deny,
For lying so, *Hermia*, I doe not lye.

Her. *Lyfander* riddles very prettily ;
Now much befrew my manners and my pride,
If *Hermia* meant to say, *Lyfander* lied. 55
But gentle friend, for loue and courtesie
Lie further off, in humane modesty,
Such separation, as may well be said,
Becomes a vertuous batchelour, and a maide,
So farre be distant, and good night sweet friend ; 60
Thy loue nere alter, till thy sweet life end.

Lyf. Amen, amen, to that faire prayer, say I,
And then end life, when I end loyalty :
Heere is my bed, sleepe giue thee all his rest.

Her. With halfe that wifh, the wifhers eyes be preft. 65

Enter Pucke.

They sleepe.

Puck. Through the Forreft haue I gone,
But *Athenian* finde I none,
One whose eyes I might approue
This flowers force in stirring loue.
Night and silence : who is heere ? 70
Weedes of *Athens* he doth weare :
This is he (my master said)
Despised the *Athenian* maide :
And heere the maiden sleeping found,
On the danke and durty ground. 75 [151¹]
Pretty foule, she durst not lye
Neere this lacke-loue, this kill-curtessie.
Churle, vpon thy eyes I throw

⁴³good]god F ;]: F fake, F deare R ⁴⁴Ly F off, yet ; F do R
lye F ⁴⁵fence, F sweete FR -cence. F ⁴⁶-rence. F is]it F ;]: F
⁴⁸can you]wee can F we can R ;]: F ⁴⁹interchained FR ;]: F
⁵¹Then, F deny : F ⁵²do R ⁵³;]. F ⁵⁴bestrewe F -ners, F ⁵⁵lyed F
⁵⁶curtesie, F ⁵⁷Ly F ;]: F ⁵⁸said,]said F ⁵⁹-eler F -ellor R
⁶⁰sweete F ;]: F ⁶¹,]om. FR sweete FR ende R ⁶²praier R
⁶³loyalty R ;]. F ⁶⁴,]: F ⁶⁵FR23 *They sleepe.*]om. FR ⁶⁶,]: F
⁶⁷finde]found F ⁶⁸One]On FR eies R ⁷⁰;]. F ⁷²hee F faide F
⁷⁴here F -en, F ⁷⁵dirty FR ⁷⁶foule F lye, F ⁷⁷lack-loue F lack loue R
kil-curtessie F ⁷⁸throwe F

II. 2. 79-113.] *A Midsummer nights Dreame.* 21

All the power this charme doth owe :
When thou wak'st, let loue forbid 80
Sleepe his seate on thy eye-lid.
So awake when I am gone :
For I must now to *Oberon*. *Exit.*

Enter Demetrius and Helena running.

Hel. Stay, though thou kill me, sweete *Demetrius*.
De. I charge thee hence, and do not haunt me thus. 85
Hel. O wilt thou darkling leaue me ? do not so.
De. Stay on thy perill, I alone will goe.

Exit Demetrius.

Hel. O I am out of breath, in this fond chace,
The more my prayer, the lesse is my grace,
Happy is *Hermia*, wherefoere she lies ; 90
For she hath blessed and attractiue eyes.
How came her eyes so bright ? Not with salt teares.
If so, my eyes are oftner washt then hers.
No, no, I am as vgly as a Beare ;
For beasts that meete me, runne away for feare, 95
Therefore no maruaile, though *Demetrius*
Doe as a monster, flie my presence thus.
What wicked and dissembling glasse of mine,
Made me compare with *Hermias* sphery eyne ?
But who is here ? *Lysander* on the ground ; 100
Deade or asleepe ? I see no blood, no wound,
Lysander, if you liue, good sir awake.

Lys. And run through fire I will for thy sweet sake.
Transparent *Helena*, nature her shewes art,
That through thy bosome makes me see thy heart. 105
Where is *Demetrius* ? oh how fit a word
Is that vile name, to perish on my sword !

Hel. Do not say so *Lysander*, say not so :
What though he loue your *Hermia* ? Lord, what though ?
Yet *Hermia* still loues you ; then be content. 110

Lys. Content with *Hermia* ? No, I do repent
The tedious minutes I with her haue spent.
Not *Hermia*, but *Helena* now I loue ;

⁸⁰ forbidde F ⁸¹ Sleepe, F feat, F seate, R eye lidde F ⁸² awake, F
gon F ⁸⁴ ; F mee F ⁸⁵ doe F mee F ⁸⁶ O, F doe F ⁸⁷ Stay, F
; F *Exit Demetrius.* om. FR ⁸⁸ O, F chafe FR ⁸⁹ praiser R grace. FR
⁹⁰ -pie F ; F ⁹¹ -ed, F ⁹² eies R ⁹⁴ no : I F ; F ⁹⁵ beastes F
mee F away, F ; F ⁹⁶ -fore, F ⁹⁷ Doe, F Do R fly F -ence, F
⁹⁸ FR23 glaffe, F ⁹⁹ eyen ! F ¹⁰⁰ But, F ?], R -der, F ground R
; FR ¹⁰¹ Dead, F Dead R a sleepe F blood, FR ; F ¹⁰² runne F
fire, F sweete F ¹⁰⁴ -rant R her] om. FR arte FR ¹⁰⁵ bosome, F
¹⁰⁷ [worde F ¹⁰⁸ so, F so. F ¹¹⁰ ; F ¹¹¹ No : I doe F ¹¹² minutes, F
¹¹³ now] om. F ; F

22 *A Midsummer nights Dreame.* [II. 2. 114-151.]

Who will not change a Rauen for a Doue ?
 The will of man is by his reason fway'd : 115
 And reason saies you are the worthier Maide.
 Things growing are not ripe vntill their season ;
 So I being yong, till now ripe not to reason,
 And touching now the point of humane skill,
 Reason becomes the Marshall to my will, 120
 And leades me to your eyes, where I orelooke
 Loues stories, written in Loues richest booke.

Hel. Wherefore was I to this keene mockery borne ?
 When at your hands did I deferue this scorne ?
 Ift not enough, ift not enough, yong man, 125
 That I did neuer, no nor neuer can,
 Deferue a sweete looke from *Demetrius* eye,
 But you must flout my insufficiency ?
 Good troth you do me wrong (good-footh you do)
 In such disdainfull manner, me to wooue. 130
 But fare you well ; perforce I must confesse,
 I thought you Lord of more true gentlenesse.
 Oh, that a Lady of one man refus'd,
 Should of another therefore be abus'd. *Exit.*

Lys. She sees not *Hermia* : *Hermia* sleepe thou there, 135
 And neuer maist thou come *Lysander* neere ;
 For as a surfeit of the sweetest things [151^a]
 The deepest loathing to the stomacke brings :
 Or as the heresies that men do leaue,
 Are hated most of those that did deceiue : 140
 So thou, my surfeit, and my heresie,
 Of all be hated ; but the most of me ;
 And all my powers addresse your loue and might,
 To honour *Helen*, and to be her Knight. *Exit.*

Her. Helpe me *Lysander*, helpe me ; do thy best 145
 To plucke this crawling serpent from my brest.
 Aye me, for pittie ; what a dreame was here ?
Lysander looke, how I do quake with feare :
 Me-thought a serpent eate my heart away,
 And yet sat smiling at his cruell prey. 150
Lysander, what remoou'd ? *Lysander*, Lord,

¹¹⁵ swai'd FR ¹¹⁶ maid R ¹¹⁷ ripe, F ;] : F ¹¹⁸ I, F young FR
 ;] F ¹¹⁹ now, F ¹²¹ leads FR mee F ;] : F ¹²⁴ When, F hands, F
¹²⁵ young FR ¹²⁸ -cency R ¹²⁹ doe mee F good foorth F doe F
¹³⁰ mee F ¹³¹ But, F ;] : F perforce, F ¹³³ FR ¹³⁴ O F Ladie, F
¹³⁴ Should, of another, F ;] : F ¹³⁵ ;] : F *-mia*, FR ¹³⁶ ;] : F ¹³⁷ For, F
 surfet FR ¹³⁸ -ing, F brings F ;] : R ¹³⁹ Or, F -sies, F doe F
¹⁴⁰ that] they FR ¹⁴¹ surfet FR ¹⁴² bee F most, of mee : F ¹⁴⁵ mee F
 mee : F ¹⁴⁶ pluck F -pent, F ¹⁴⁷ Ay mee F -tie. F ¹⁴⁸ doe F :] : F
¹⁴⁹ Me thought F ¹⁵⁰ yet] you FR fate F pray F ¹⁵¹ ;]om. F what,
 remou'd F

What, out of hearing, gone? No sound, no word?
Alacke where are you? speake and if you heare:
Speake of all lous; I found almost with feare.
No, then I well perceiue you are not nye,
Either death or you Ile finde immediately.

155
Exit.

Actus Tertius.

Enter the Clownes.

Bot. Are we all met?

Quin. Pat, pat, and here's a maruailous conuenient place for our rehearfall. This greene plot shall be our stage, this hauthorne brake our tiring house, and we will do it in action, as we will do it before the Duke. 5

Bot. Peter quince?

Peter. What faist thou, bully *Bottom*?

Bot. There are things in this Comedy of *Piramus* and *Thisby*, that will neuer please. First, *Piramus* must draw a sword to kill himselfe; which the Ladies cannot abide. 10
How answere you that?

Snout. Berlaken, a parlous feare.

Star. I beleue we must leaue the killing out, when all is done.

Bot. Not a whit, I haue a deuice to make all well. 15
Write me a Prologue, and let the Prologue seeme to say, we will do no harme with our swords, and that *Pyramus* is not kill'd indeede: and for the more better assurance, tell them, that I *Piramus* am not *Piramus*, but *Bottom* the Weauer; this will put them out of feare. 20

Quin. Well, we will haue such a Prologue, and it shall be written in eight and fixe.

Bot. No, make it two more, let it be written in eight and eight.

Snout. Will not the Ladies be afear'd of the Lyon? 25

Star. I feare it, I promise you.

¹⁵² gon F ¹⁵³ Speake, F :]; FR ¹⁵⁴ Speake, F :]; F; R sound] swoune F [sfound R ¹⁵⁵ perceiue, F ny: F ¹⁵⁶ Eyther R death, or you, F *Actus Tertius.*] om. FR ¹ wee F ² Pat, pat: F heres FR maruailles F ³ place, F ⁴ wee F ⁵ doe FR wee F doe F ⁶ Peter F ⁷ faist F bully, *Bottom* F ⁸ edy, F *Pyr.* F ⁹ *Pyr.* F ¹⁰ [worde, F Ladies R ¹¹ FR ²⁵ answer R ¹² kin F ¹³ beleue, F ling, F ¹⁴ :]; F deuise F ¹⁵ fay; F ¹⁷ wee R wil F harme, F ¹⁸ kild FR indeed R ¹⁹ tel F ,] om. R *Pyr.* F *Pyr.* F *tom* F ²⁰ :]; F ²¹ Well: wee F ²² fix F ²³ :]; F :]; F ²⁴ afear'd FR

Bot. Masters, you ought to confider with your felues, to bring in (God fhield vs) a Lyon among Ladies, is a most dreadfull thing. For there is not a more fearefull wilde foule then your Lyon liuing: and wee ought to looke 30 to it.

Snout. Therefore another Prologue must tell he is not a Lyon.

Bot. Nay, you must name his name, and halfe his face must be seene through the Lyons necke, and he himselfe 35 must speake through, saying thus, or to the same defect; Ladies, or faire Ladies, I would with you, or I would request you, or I would entreat you, not to feare, not to [152¹] tremble: my life for yours. If you thinke I come hither as a Lyon, it were pittie of my life. No, I am no such 40 thing, I am a man as other men are; and there indeed let him name his name, and tell him plainly hee is *Snug* the ioyner.

Quin. Well, it shall be so; but there is two hard things, that is, to bring the Moone-light into a chamber: for you know, *Piramus* and *Thisby* meete by Moone-light. 45

Sn. Doth the Moone shine that night wee play our play?

Bot. A Calender, a Calender, looke in the Almanack, 50 finde out Moone-shine, finde out Moone-shine.

Enter Pucke.

Quin. Yes, it doth shine that night.

Bot. Why then may you leaue a casement of the great chamber window (where we play) open, and the Moone may shine in at the casement. 55

Quin. I, or else one must come in with a bush of thorns and a lanthorne, and say he comes to disfigure, or to present the person of Moone-shine. Then there is another thing, we must haue a wall in the great Chamber; for *Piramus* and *Thisby* (saies the story) did talke through the 60 chinke of a wall.

Sn. You can neuer bring in a wall. What say you *Bottom*?

²⁷ selfe FR ²⁸ fhield F ²⁹ fowle R we FR ³¹ toote. F ³² Therefore, F tel, F ³³ Lion F ³⁴ Nay: F ³⁵ Lions F hee R ³⁶ deffect R ³⁸ wold intreat F ³⁹ hether R ⁴⁰ tie F No: F ⁴¹,]: F ;]: F indeed, F ⁴² tell him] tell them FR plainly F he FR *Snugge*, F ⁴⁴,]: F ;]: F ⁴⁵ things: F ⁴⁶ *Pyr*- F ⁴⁸ shine, that night, F we FR ⁵⁰ FR26 -der: looke F -ack: F ⁵¹ Mooneshine. R *Enter Pucke.] om.* FR ⁵² Yes: F ⁵³ *Bot.] Cct.* F then, F ⁵⁴,]: F ⁵⁵ I: or els, F in, F thorns, FR ⁵⁷ latern F ⁵⁸ Then, F ⁵⁹,]: F wal F ;]: F *Pyr*- F ⁶² wal F ⁶³ -tom F



III. 1. 64-98.] *A Midsummer nights Dreame.* 25

Bot. Some man or other must present wall, and let him haue some Plaster, or some Lome, or some rough cast about him, to signifie wall; or let him hold his fingers thus; and through that cranny, shall *Piramus* and *Thisby* whisper. 65

Quin. If that may be, then all is well. Come, sit downe euery mothers sonne, and rehearse your parts. *Piramus*, you begin; when you haue spoken your speech, enter into that Brake, and so euery one according to his cue. 70

Enter Robin.

Rob. What hempen home-spuns haue we swagge-
ring here,
So neere the Cradle of the Faerie Queene? 75
What, a Play toward? Ile be an auditor,
An Actor too perhaps, if I see cause.

Quin. Speake *Piramus*: *Thisby* stand forth.

Pir. *Thisby*, the flowers of odious fauours sweete.

Quin. Odours, odours. 80

Pir. Odours fauours sweete,

So hath thy breath, my dearest *Thisby* deare.

But harke, a voyce: stay thou but here a while,

And by and by I will to thee appeare. *Exit. Pir.*

Puck. A stranger *Piramus*, then ere plaid here. 85

Thys. Must I speake now?

Pet. I marry must you. For you must vnderstand he goes but to see a noyfe that he heard, and is to come againe.

Thys. Most radiant *Piramus*, most Lilly white of hue, 90
Of colour like the red rose on triumphant bryer,
Most brisky Iuuenall, and eke most louely Iew,
As true as truest horse, that yet would neuer tyre,
Ile meete thee *Piramus*, at *Ninnies* toombe.

Pet. *Ninus* toombe man: why, you must not speake 95
that yet; that you answere to *Piramus*: you speake all
your part at once, cues and all. *Piramus* enter, your cue is
past; it is neuer tyre.

⁶⁴]; F ⁶⁶ fom lome F ⁶⁸ cast, F holde F ⁶⁷]; F crany F *Pyr.* F
⁷⁰ rehearse F ⁷¹ *Pyr.* F beginne: F ⁷⁴ homespunnes F swagging FR
⁷⁶ Fairy FR ⁷⁷ to F -happes F ⁷⁸ *Pyr.* F :], R *Thysby* F ⁷⁹]. om. F
faours F ⁸⁰ Odours, odorous. FR ⁸¹ faours F :], F ⁸³ voice F
heere FR ⁸⁴ *Pir.*] om. FR ⁸⁵ *Puck.*] *Quin.* FR *Pyr.* F played heere F
⁸⁷ FR ⁸⁷ *Pet.*] *Quin.* F -stead, F ⁸⁸ noyfe, F ⁹⁰ *Pyr.* F lillie F hewe F
⁹¹ redrose, F ⁹² eeke F Iewe F ⁹⁴ *Pyr.* F toombe F ⁹⁶ *Pet.*] *Quin.* F
toombe, man. F :], F om. R speake/That F ⁹⁶]; F answer R
Piramus. F speake/Al F ⁹⁷ cues, and, F al R *Piramus*, F :], F
⁹⁸]; F is; F tire F

26 *A Midsummer nights Dreame.* [III. 1. 99-130.]

Thys. O, as true as truest horse, that yet would neuer tyre :

Pir. If I were faire, *Thisby* I were onely thine. 100 [152]

Pet. O monstrous. O strange. We are hanted ; pray masters, flye masters, helpe.

The Clownes all Exit.

Puk. Ile follow you, Ile leade you about a Round,
Through bogge, through bush, through brake, through
Sometime a horse Ile be, fometime a hound : (bryer, 105
A hogge, a headlesse beare, fometime a fire,
And neigh, and barke, and grunt, and rore, and burne,
Like horse, hound, hog, beare, fire, at euery turne. *Exit.*

Enter Piramus with the Asses head.

Bot. Why do they run away ? This is a knauery of them to make me afeard. *Enter Snowt.* 110

Sn. O *Bottom*, thou art chang'd ; What doe I see on thee ?

Bot. What do you see ? You see an Asses-head of your owne, do you ?

Enter Peter Quince.

Pet. Blesse thee *Bottom*, blesse thee ; thou art translated. *Exit.* 115

Bot. I see their knauery ; this is to make an asse of me, to fright me if they could ; but I will not stirre from this place, do what they can. I will walke vp and downe here, and I will sing that they shall heare I am not a- 120
fraid.

The Woodell cocke, so blacke of hew,
With Orenge-tawny bill.

The Throffle, with his note so true,
The Wren and little quill. 125

Tyta. What Angell wakes me from my flowry bed ?

Bot. The Finch, the Sparrow, and the Larke,
The plainsong Cuckow gray ;
Whose note full many a man doth marke,
And dares not answere, nay. 130

99:] FR 100 *Thysby*, F 101 *Pet.*] *Quin.* F .:] F .:] F haunted FR
:] F 102 .:] F fly F .:] F *The Clownes all exit.*] om. FR 103 *Puk.*] *Rob.* FR you: Ile F 104 bryer,] bryer: F bryer R 105 some- FR ;], FR
106 headlesse F fier F 107 hogge F *Enter Piramus with the Asses head.*] *om.* FR 108 doe F runne F 109 mee F Snowte F 110 chaung'd. F
do FR 111 doe F Asses head FR 112 own R .:] FR *Peter*] *om.* F
113 *Pet.*] *Quin.* F -ton F .:] F 114 .:] F mee F 115 me, F .:] F wil F
fir R 116 heere FR afraide F 117 cock F hewe F 118 Orange
tawny bill, FR 119 FR 120 Wren, F and] with FR 121 Fynch F
-rowe F 122 .:] F 123 note, F 124 answer R

III. I. 131-163.] *A Midsummer nights Dreame.* 27

For indeede, who would set his wit to so foolish a bird?
Who would giue a bird the lye, though he cry Cuckow,
neuer so?

Tyta. I pray thee gentle mortall, sing againe,
Mine eare is much enamored of thy note ; 135
On the first view to say, to sweare I loue thee.
So is mine eye enthralled to thy shape,
And thy faire vertues force (perforce) doth moue me.

Bot. Me-thinkes mistresse, you should haue little
reason for that: and yet to say the truth, reason and 140
loue keepe little company together, now-adayes.
The more the pittie, that some honest neighbours will
not make them friends. Nay, I can gleeke vpon occa-
sion.

Tyta. Thou art as wise, as thou art beautifull. 145

Bot. Not so neither: but if I had wit enough to get
out of this wood, I haue enough to serue mine owne
turne.

Tyta. Out of this wood, do not desire to goe,
Thou shalt remaine here, whether thou wilt or no. 150
I am a spirit of no common rate:

The Summer still doth tend vpon my state,
And I doe loue thee; therefore goe with me,
He giue thee Fairies to attend on thee;
And they shall fetch thee Iewels from the deepe, 155
And sing, while thou on pressed flowers dost sleepe:
And I will purge thy mortall grossenesse so,
That thou shalt like an airie spirit go.

*Enter Pease-blossome, Cobweb, Moth, Mustard-
seede, and foure Fairies.*

Fai. Ready; and I, and I, and I, Where shall we go?

Tyta. Be kinde and courteous to this Gentleman, 160 [151]¹
Hop in his walkes, and gambole in his eies,
Feede him with Apricocks, and Dewberries,
With purple Grapes, greene Figs, and Mulberries,

¹⁸¹ indeed R birde F ¹⁸² ly F hee F ¹⁸⁴ thee, F againe. F
¹⁸⁶ Myne F enamoured F ;]: F ¹⁸⁶⁻⁸ So is mine eye enthralled to thy
shape,/ And thy faire vertues force (perforce) doth moue me,/ On the first
viewe to say, to sweare, I loue thee. F ¹⁸⁸ .], R ¹⁸⁹ Mee thinks F Me-
thinks R ¹⁴⁰ :]. F yet, F ¹⁴¹ now a daies F now adayes R ¹⁴² .ty FR
¹⁴³ .]om. FR gleeke, F ¹⁴⁷ owne] owe F ¹⁴⁹ doe F ,]: F ¹⁵¹ spirit, F
¹⁵² Sommer, F Sommer R still, F ¹⁵³ do R :]: F go R mee. F
¹⁵⁴ ;]: F ¹⁵⁵ Iewels, F ¹⁵⁶ thou, F flowers, F ¹⁵⁸ shalt, F ayery F
ayry R spirit, goe F *Enter Pease-blossome, Cobweb, Moth, Mustard-
seede, and foure Fairies.* *Pease-blossome, Cobweb, Moth, and Mustard-seede.* /
Enter foure Fairies. F *Pease-blossome, Cobweb, Moth, and Mustard-seede.* /
Enter foure Fairies. R ¹⁵⁹ FR ²⁰ *Fai.* Fairies. F Readie: F I, Where]
I. Where FR goe F ¹⁶¹ eyes F ¹⁶³ figges F

The honie-bags steale from the humble Bees,
 And for night-tapers crop their waxen thighes, 165
 And light them at the fierie-Glow-wormes eyes,
 To haue my loue to bed, and to arise:
 And plucke the wings from painted Butterflies,
 To fan the Moone-beames from his sleeping eies.
 Nod to him Elues, and doe him curtesies. 170

1. *Fai.* Haile mortall, haile.

2. *Fai.* Haile.

3. *Fai.* Haile.

Bot. I cry your worships mercy hartily; I beseech
 your worships name. 175

Cob. *Cobweb.*

Bot. I shall desire you of more acquaintance, good
 Master *Cobweb*: if I cut my finger, I shall make bold
 with you.

Your name honest Gentleman? 180

Peaf. *Pease-blossome.*

Bot. I pray you commend mee to mistresse *Squash*,
 your mother, and to master *Peascod* your father. Good
 master *Pease-blossome*, I shall desire of you more acquaint-
 tance to. Your name I beseech you sir? 185

Muf. *Mustard-seede.*

Peaf. *Pease-blossome.*

Bot. Good master *Mustard-seede*, I know your pati-
 ence well: that fame cowardly gyant-like Oxe-beefe
 hath deuoured many a gentleman of your house. I pro- 190
 mise you, your kindred hath made my eyes water ere
 now. I desire you more acquaintance, good Master
Mustard-seede.

Tita. Come waite vpon him, lead him to my bower.
 The Moone me-thinks, lookes with a watric eie, 195
 And when she weepes, weepe euerie little flower,
 Lamenting some enforced chaffitie.
 Tye vp my louers tongue, bring him silently. *Exit.*

Enter King of Pharies, solus. [III. 2.]

Ob. I wonder if *Titania* be awak't;

¹⁶⁴hony bagges F hony bags R ¹⁶⁵night tapers, FR ¹⁶⁶crope F
¹⁶⁶ferie-] fiery FR ¹⁶⁷glowe- F eies R ¹⁶⁸bedde F :], F om. R ¹⁶⁹pluck F
wings, F ¹⁷⁰fanne FR eyes, FR ¹⁷¹do R ¹⁷²-cy, F :], F ¹⁷³-shippes F
¹⁷⁴webbe F ¹⁷⁵bolde F ¹⁷⁶*Pease-blossome* FR ¹⁷⁷me R ¹⁷⁸-cod, F
¹⁷⁹shall FR of you] you of FR ¹⁸⁰-tance, F ¹⁸¹-jom. F ¹⁸²*Peaf.* *Pease-*
blossome.] om. FR ¹⁸³*Mustard-seede* F ¹⁸⁴seed R ¹⁸⁵]. F ¹⁸⁶-ly, F ¹⁸⁷gyant-
like, Oxbeefe F ¹⁸⁸deuourd F ¹⁸⁹water, F ¹⁹⁰-jom. FR ¹⁹¹seed R
¹⁹²]. F ¹⁹³leade FR ¹⁹⁴Moone, me thinks F ¹⁹⁵watry FR ¹⁹⁶eye: F
¹⁹⁷thee F ¹⁹⁸weepe] weepes F ¹⁹⁹-ry FR ²⁰⁰ty R ²⁰¹Ty F ²⁰²*Fai-*
²⁰³ries FR ²⁰⁴*solus*] and Robin goodfellow FR ²⁰⁵good-fel- R

Then what it was that next came in her eye,
Which she must dote on, in extremitie.

Enter Pucke.

Here comes my messenger : how now mad spirit,
What night-rule now about this gaunted groue ? 5

Puck. My Mistris with a monster is in loue,
Neere to her close and consecrated bower,
While she was in her dull and sleeping hower,
A crew of patches, rude Meehanicals,
That worke for bread vpon *Athenian* stals, 10

Were met together to rehearse a Play,
Intended for great *Thefeus* nuptiall day :
The shallowest thick-skin of that barren fort,
Who *Piramus* presented, in their sport,
Forooke his Scene, and entred in a brake, 15

When I did him at this aduantage take,
An Asses nole I fixed on his head.
Anon his *Thisbie* must be answered,
And forth my Mimmick comes : when they him spie,
As Wilde-geefe, that the creeping Fowler eye, 20

Or ruffed-pated choughes, many in sort
(Rising and cawing at the guns report)
Seuer themselues, and madly sweepe the skye :
So at his sight, away his fellowes flye, [151¹]
And at our stampe, here ore and ore one fals ; 25

He murder cries, and helpe from *Athens* calls.
Their sence thus weake, lost with their fears thus strong,
Made senselesse things begin to do them wrong.
For briars and thornes at their apparell snatch,
Some sleeues, some hats, from yeelders all things catch, 30

I led them on in this distracted feare,
And left sweete *Piramus* translated there :
When in that moment (so it came to passe)
Tytania waked, and straightway lou'd an Ass.

Ob. This fals out better then I could deuise : 35
But hast thou yet lacht the *Athenians* eyes,
With the loue iuice, as I did bid thee doe ?

² was, F ³ extream- F -ty R *Enter Pucke.*] om. FR ⁴ :]. F now, F
;] F ⁵ -] om. F gaunted] haunted FR ⁶ mistresse FR ⁷ :]. F ⁸ dull, F
⁹ Mechan- FR ¹⁰ bread, FR stales FR ¹¹ thickskinne, F barraine F
¹² Pyr- F ¹³ :]. F ¹⁴ Minnick F Minnock R :]. F spy FR :]. F
¹⁵ wilde geefe FR Fou- F ¹⁶ ruffed pated F ruffed pated R ¹⁷ Ryfing,
and cawing, F gunnes F ¹⁸ sky FR ¹⁹ So, F fly F ²⁰ ore, one F
falles FR :]. F ²¹ cries FR ²² sence, F feares, F feares R ²³ doe F
²⁴ For, briars F thornes, F -ell, F :]. F ²⁵ hats ; F -ers, F :]. F
²⁶ on, F ²⁷ Pyr- F ²⁸ FR31 ²⁹ wak't F straight way F ³⁰ falles FR
-ter, F :]. F ³¹ lacht F ³² iuice F do R

30 *A Midsummer nights Dreame.* [III. 2. 38-74.

Rob. I tooke him sleeping (that is finisht to)
And the *Athenian* woman by his side,
That when he wak't, of force she must be eyde. 40

Enter Demetrius and Hermia.

Ob. Stand close, this is the same *Athenian*.

Rob. This is the woman, but not this the man.

Dem. O why rebuke you him that loues you so?
Lay breath so bitter on your bitter foe.

Her. Now I but chide, but I should vfe thee worse. 45
For thou (I feare) hast giuen me cause to curfe,
If thou hast slaine *Lyfander* in his sleepe,
Being ore shooes in bloud, plunge in the deepe, and kill
me too :

The Sunne was not so true vnto the day, 50
As he to me. Would he haue stollen away,
From sleeping *Hermia*? Ile beleuee as soone
This whole earth may be bord, and that the Moone
May through the Center creepe, and so displease
Her brothers noonetide, with th' *Antipodes*. 55
It cannot be but thou hast murdred him,
So should a mutrherer looke, so dead, so grim.

Dem. So should the murderer looke, and so should I,
Pierst through the heart with your stearne cruelty :
Yet you the murderer looks as bright as cleare, 60
As yonder *Venus* in her glimmering spheare.

Her. What's this to my *Lyfander*? where is he?

Ah good *Demetrius*, wilt thou giue him me?

Dem. I'de rather giue his carkasse to my hounds.
Her. Out dog, out cur, thou driu'ft me past the bounds 65
Of maidens patience. Hast thou slaine him then?

Henceforth be neuer numbred among men.
Oh, once tell true, euen for my sake,
Durst thou a lookt vpon him, being awake?
And hast thou kill'd him sleeping? O braue tutch : 70
Could not a worrne, an Adder do so much?
An Adder did it : for with doubler tongue
Then thine (thou serpent) neuer Adder stung.

Dem. You spend your passion on a mispri'd mood,

³⁹ woman, F ,j; F ⁴⁰ ey'd F ⁴¹,j; F ⁴²,j; F ⁴³O, F him, F ⁴⁴bit-
ter, on F ⁴⁵,j; F ⁴⁶,j. FR ⁴⁷-der, F ,j; F ⁴⁸blood F ⁴⁹mee to. F
to, R ⁵⁰hee to mee F hee F ⁵¹Frow F beleuee, as soone, F
⁵²bor'd FR ⁵³be, F ,j. F ⁵⁴murtherer F murderer R looke; F
grimme F ⁵⁵murthered F murdered R ⁵⁶Pearst F heart, F sterne F
:,j. F ⁵⁷you, F murtherer, F looke as bright, FR cleere F ⁵⁸*Venus*, F
⁵⁹Whats F hee F ⁶⁰mee F ⁶¹I'de] I had F Ide R carcasse F
⁶²curre FR ,j; F bonds R ⁶³FR32 O F true] true: tell true F fake: F
⁶⁴a]haue FR ⁶⁵kild FR him, F ,j; F ⁶⁶,j. R ⁶⁷thyne F ⁶⁸spende F
-fion, F -pris'd F -priz'd R ,j; F



III. 2. 75-112.] *A Midfommer nights Dreame.* 31

I am not guiltie of *Lyfanders* blood : 75
Nor is he dead for ought that I can tell.

Her. I pray thee tell me then that he is well.

Dem. And if I could, what should I get therefore ?

Her. A priuiledge, neuer to see me more ; 80
And from thy hated prefence part I : see me no more
Whether he be dead or no. *Exit.*

Dem. There is no following her in this fierce vaine,
Here therefore for a while I will remaine.

So sorrowes heauinesse doth heauier grow :
For debt that bankrout slip doth sorrow owe, 85
Which now in some slight measure it will pay,
If for his tender here I make some stay. *Lie downe.* [154]

Ob. What hast thou done ? Thou hast mistaken quite
And laid the loue iuyce on some true louses sight :
Of thy misprifion, must perforce ensue 90
Some true loue turn'd, and not a false turn'd true.

Rob. Then fate ore-rules, that one man holding troth,
A million faile, confounding oath on oath.

Ob. About the wood, goe swifter then the winde,
And *Helena* of *Athens* looke thou finde. 95
All fancy sicke she is, and pale of cheere,
With sighes of loue, that costs the fresh blood deare.
By some illusion see thou bring her heere,
Ile charme his eyes against the doth appeare.

Robin. I go, I go, looke how I goe, 100
Swifter then arrow from the *Tartars* bowe. *Exit.*

Ob. Flower of this purple die,
Hit with *Cupids* archery,
Sinke in apple of his eye,
When his loue he doth espie, 105
Let her shine as gloriously
As the *Venus* of the sky.
When thou wak'ft if she be by,
Beg of her for remedy.

Enter Pucke.

Puck. Captaine of our Fairy band, 110
Helena is heere at hand,
And the youth, mistooke by me,

⁷⁸ty FR bloode F bloud R ⁷⁹deade, F dead, R ⁷⁷thee, F mee F
then, FR ⁷⁹mee F ;] : F , R ⁸⁰], R ⁸¹more ; F more, R ⁸²], F
⁸³Heere FR -fore, F while, F ⁸⁴growe F :] FR ⁸⁵flippe F ,] : F
⁸⁶], F ⁸⁷heere R *Ly downe* F ⁸⁸quite, FR ⁸⁹laide R iuice F
:] F ⁹¹turnd F turnd FR ⁹²-]om. F ⁹⁶is,] is F ⁹⁷blood F
⁹⁸here : F ⁹⁹eyes, F eies, R doth] doe F do R ¹⁰⁰I goe, I goe, F
:] F ¹⁰¹arrow, F *Exit.* om. F ¹⁰²dy F ¹⁰³FR33 ¹⁰⁶espy FR
¹⁰⁸wak'ft, FR ¹⁰⁹Begge of her, F *Puck* F ¹¹¹hande F ¹¹²mee F

32 *A Midsummer nights Dreame.* [III. 2. 113-149.

Pleading for a Louers fee.

Shall we their fond Pageant see?

Lord, what fooles these mortals be!

115

Ob. Stand aside: the noyse they make,
Will cause *Demetrius* to awake.

Puck. Then will two at once wooe one,
That must needs be sport alone:

And those things doe best please me,
That befall preposterously.

120

Enter Lyfander and Helena.

Lyf. Why should you think y^e I should wooe in scorn?
Scorne and derision neuer comes in teares:

Looke when I vow I weepe; and vowes so borne,
In their natiuity all truth appeares.

125

How can these things in me, seeme scorne to you?
Bearing the badge of faith to proue them true.

Hel. You doe aduance your cunning more & more,
When truth kills truth, O diuelish holy fray!

These vowes are *Hermias*. Will you giue her ore?
Weigh oath with oath, and you will nothing weigh.

130

Your vowes to her, and me, (put in two scales)
Will euen weigh, and both as light as tales.

Lyf. I had no iudgement, when to her I swore.

Hel. Nor none in my minde, now you giue her ore.

135

Lyf. *Demetrius* loues her, and he loues not you. *Awa.*

Dem. O *Helen*, goddesse, nimph, perfect, diuine,
To what my, loue, shall I compare thine eyne!

Christall is muddy, O how ripe in shew,
Thy lips, those kissing cherries, tempting grow!

140

That pure congealed white, high *Taurus* snow,
Fan'd with the Easterne winde, turnes to a crow,

When thou holdst vp thy hand. O let me kisse
This Princeesse of pure white, this seale of blisse.

Hell. O spight! O hell! I see you are all bent

145

To set against me, for your merriment:

If you were ciuill, and knew curtesie,

You would not doe me thus much iniury.

Can you not hate me, as I know you doe,

[154^r]

114 wee F 115 bee F 116 :]. F noyse, F 118 two, at once, F :]. F
119 needes F :]. F 120 do FR mee F 121 preposterously F -der, F
122 think, F scorne F 123 Scorne, F -sion F come FR :]. F 124 vow, F
:] F 125 -itie F 126 things, in mee F 127 prouue F 128 do R -ning.
more, F 129 trueth kills F 131 oath, with F waigh F 132 mee F
]om. FR 133 :]. F 135 none, F 136 FR34 :]. F *Awa.*]om. FR
137 nymph, perfect diuine F 138 what, my loue FR cine R 139 :]. F
O, F ripe, F shoue FR 140 lippes F growe F 141 congealed F
142 Fand F crowe F 143 O, F 145 fee, F are all] all are FR 146 mee F
:] F 148 do R mee F 149 mee F do R

III. 2. 150-184.] *A Midfommer nights Dreame.* 33

But you must ioyne in foules to mocke me to? 150

If you are men, as men you are in show,

You would not vie a gentle Lady so;

To vow, and sweare, and superpraise my parts,

When I am sure you hate me with your hearts.

You both are Riuals, and loue *Hermia*; 155

And now both Riuals to mocke *Helena*.

A trim exploit, a manly enterprize,

To coniure teares vp in a poore maids eyes,

With your derision; none of noble fort,

Would so offend a Virgin, and extort 160

A poore foules patience, all to make you sport.

Lyfa. You are vnkind *Demetrius*; be not so,

For you loue *Hermia*; this you know I know;

And here with all good will, with all my heart,

In *Hermias* loue I yeeld you vp my part; 165

And yours of *Helena*, to me bequeath,

Whom I do loue, and will do to my death.

Hel. Neuer did mockers waite more idle breth.

Dem. *Lyfander*, keep thy *Hermia*, I will none:

If ere I lou'd her, all that loue is gone. 170

My heart to her, but as guest-wife sojourn'd,

And now to *Helen* it is home return'd,

There to remaine.

Lyf. It is not so.

De. Disparage not the faith thou dost not know,

Left to thy perill thou abide it deare. 175

Looke where thy Loue comes, yonder is thy deare.

Enter Hermia.

Her. Dark night, that from the eye his function takes,

The eare more quicke of apprehension makes,

Wherein it doth impaire the seeing sense,

It payes the hearing double recompence. 180

Thou art not by mine eye, *Lyfander* found,

Mine eare (I thanke it) brought me to that found.

But why vnkindly didst thou leaue me so? (to go?)

Lyfan. Why should hee stay whom Loue doth presse

¹⁵⁰ ioyne, in foules, F mee F too R ¹⁵¹ are men] were men FR
 shoue F ¹⁵³ voue F ¹⁵⁴ sure, F mee F ¹⁵⁶ ;]: F ¹⁵⁶ Riualles, F
 Riuals, R mock F ¹⁵⁷ -prife F ¹⁵⁸ vp, F maides FR ¹⁵⁹ ;]om. F
 , R None, F ¹⁶⁰ virgine FR ¹⁶² vnkinde, F vnkinde R ;]: F ,]. FR
¹⁶³ mia: F ;]. F ¹⁶⁴ heare, F heere R ¹⁶⁵ yeelde F ;]: F ¹⁶⁶ mee F
 ;]: F ¹⁶⁷ doe F to] till F ¹⁶⁸ waste FR breath FR ¹⁶⁹ keepe FR ;]: F
 ;]. F ¹⁷¹ FR35 guestwife, F sojourn'd FR ;]: F ¹⁷² *Helena*, is it F
 return'd F ¹⁷³ It is] *Helen*, it is F ¹⁷⁴ faith, F ;]: F ¹⁷⁵ Least FR
 -ill F aby F ¹⁷⁶ ;]: F ¹⁷⁷ Darke FR eye, F ¹⁷⁸ ;]. F ¹⁷⁹ It FR
 payes F ¹⁸¹ not, by myne F eie R -der, found: F ¹⁸² care, I thanke
 it, F that] thy FR ¹⁸³ why, F -ly, F mee F ¹⁸⁴ he stay, FR

34 *A Midsummer nights Dreame.* [III. 2. 185-224.

Her. What loue could presse *Lyfander* from my side? 185
Lyf. *Lyfanders* loue (that would not let him bide)

Faire *Helena*; who more engilds the night,
 Then all yon fierie oes, and eies of light.
 Why seek'st thou me? Could not this make thee know,
 The hate I bare thee, made me leaue thee so? 190

Her. You speake not as you thinke; it cannot be.

Hel. Loe, she is one of this confederacy,
 Now I perceiue they haue conioyn'd all three,
 To fashon this false sport in spight of me.
 Iniurious *Hermia*, most vngratefull maid, 195
 Haue you conspir'd, haue you with these contriu'd
 To baite me, with this foule derision?

Is all the counsell that we two haue shar'd,
 The sisters vowes, the houres that we haue spent,
 When wee haue chid the hafty footed time, 200
 For parting vs; O, is all forgot?

All schoole-daies friendship, child-hood innocence?
 We *Hermia*, like two Artificiall gods,
 Haue with our needles, created both one flower,
 Both on one sampler, sitting on one cushion, 205
 Both warbling of one song, both in one key;
 As if our hands, our sides, voices, and mindes
 Had beene incorporate. So we grew together,
 Like to a double cherry, seeming parted,

But yet a vnion in partition, 210
 [155']

Two louely berries molded on one stem,
 So with two seeming bodies, but one heart,
 Two of the first life coats in Heraldry,
 Due but to one and crowned with one crest.
 And will you rent our ancient loue afunder, 215
 To ioine with men in scorning your poore friend?
 It is not friendly, 'tis not maidenly.

Our sexe as well as I, may chide you for it,
 Though I alone doe feele the iniurie.

Her. I am amazed at your passionate words, 220
 I scorne you not; It seemes that you scorne me.

Hel. Haue you not set *Lyfander*, as in scorne
 To follow me, and praise my eies and face?
 And made your other loue, *Demetrius*

185 *der*, F 187 ;]: F ,]om. F 188 .ry FR eyes F 190 mee F 191 ;]: F
 bee F 192 Lo: F ,]. F 193 -ceiue, FR -ioynd FR 194 sport, FR mee F
 195 maide FR 197 mee F 199 howers F 200 we FR -tie F 202 schoole-daies F
 schoole-daies R -shippe F ,]om. F 208 Wee, F 204 FR 36 207 voyces F
 208 bin FR wee grewe F -ted; F 210 a] an FR 211 moulded FR
 stemme FR ,]; F 214 to one, FR creast F 215 aun- F 216 men, F
 217 tis FR 218 [ex, F it; F 219 do R fele F -ry FR 220 passionate]
 om. FR ,]: F 221 ;]. F mee F 222 scorne, F 223 mee F eyes F

III. 2. 225-259.] *A Midsummer nights Dreame.* 35

(Who euen but now did spurne me with his foote) 225
 To call me goddesse, nimph, diuine, and rare,
 Precious, celestiall? Wherefore speakes he this
 To her he hates? And wherefore doth *Lyfander*
 Denie your loue (so rich within his soule)
 And tender me (forfooth) affection, 230
 But by your setting on, by your consent?
 What though I be not so in grace as you,
 So hung vpon with loue, so fortunate?
 (But miserable most, to loue vnlo'd)
 This you should pittie, rather then despise. 235
Her. I vnderstand not what you meane by this.
Hel. I, doe, perfeuer, counterfeit fad lookes,
 Make mouthes vpon me when I turne my backe,
 Winke each at other, hold the sweete iest vp:
 This sport well carried, shall be chronicled. 240
 If you haue any pittie, grace, or manners,
 You would not make me such an argument:
 But fare ye well, 'tis partly mine owne fault,
 Which death or absence soone shall remedie.
Lyf. Stay gentle *Helena*, heare my excuse, 245
 My loue, my life, my soule, faire *Helena*.
Hel. O excellent!
Her. Sweete, do not scorne her so.
Dem. If she cannot entreate, I can compell.
Lyf. Thou canst compell, no more then she entreate.
 Thy threats haue no more strength then her weak praise. 250
Helena, I loue thee, by my life I doe;
 I sweare by that which I will lose for thee,
 To proue him false, that saies I loue thee not.
Dem. I say, I loue thee more then he can do.
Lyf. If thou say so, with-draw and proue it too. 255
Dem. Quick, come.
Her. *Lyfander*, whereto tends all this?
Lyf. Away, you *Ethiope*.
Dem. No, no, Sir, feeme to breake loose;
 Take on as you would follow,
 But yet come not: you are a tame man, go.

225 mee F 226 mee F nymph F 227 Pretious F ,]om. F this, F
 228 wherefore F 229 -ny FR 230 mee F 231 What, F 232 -ty R 233 not, F
 237 I doe, F do R -fait F ,]: F 238 mee, F back: F 239 FR37
 sweete F ieast FR ,]: F 240 bee F 241 -ty FR 242 mee F ,]: FR
 243 faryewell R ,]: F tis FR mine]my F ,]: F 244 death, F -dy FR
 245 Stay, F -na: F 247 doe F 248 entreat F 249 ,]om. F more, F
 intreat F 250 weake FR 251 ,]: F 252 loose F ,]: F 253 prooue F
 256 withdrawe, F prooue F to FR 257 Quick come F 257 -op F No,
 no: heele/Seeme to breake loose: take on as you would follow;/ F
 Sir,]hee'l R 259:]: F

36 *A Midsummer nights Dreame.* [III. 2. 260-294.

Lyf. Hang off thou cat, thou bur ; vile thing let loose, 260
Or I will shake thee from me like a serpent.

Her. Why are you growne so rude ?

What change is this sweete Loue ?

Lyf. Thy loue ? out tawny *Tartar*, out ;
Out loathed medicine ; O hated poison hence.

Her. Do you not iest ? 265

Hel. Yes sooth, and so do you.

Lyf. *Demetrius* : I will keepe my word with thee.

Dem. I would I had your bond : for I perceiue
A weake bond holds you ; Ile not trust your word.

Lyf. What, should I hurt her, strike her, kill her dead ?

Although I hate her, Ile not harme her so. 270

Her. What, can you do me greater harme then hate ?

Hate me, wherefore ? O me, what newes my Loue ? [155²]

Am not I *Hermia* ? Are not you *Lyfander* ?

I am as faire now, as I was ere while.

Since night you lou'd me ; yet since night you left me. 275

Why then you left me (O the gods forbid

In earnest, shall I fay ?

Lyf. I, by my life ;

And neuer did desire to see thee more.

Therefore be out of hope, of question, of doubt ;

Be certaine, nothing truer : 'tis no iest, 280

That I doe hate thee, and loue *Helena*.

Her. O me, you iugler, you canker blossome,

You theefe of loue ; What, haue you come by night,

And stolne my loues heart from him ?

Hel. Fine yfaith :

Haue you no modesty, no maiden shame, 285

No touch of bashfulnesse ? What, will you teare

Impatient answers from my gentle tongue ?

Fie, fie, you counterfeit, you puppet, you.

Her. Puppet ? why so ? I, that way goes the game.

Now I perceiue that she hath made compare 290

Betweene our statures, she hath vrg'd her height,

And with her personage, her tall personage,

Her height (forsooth) she hath preuail'd with him.

And are you growne so high in his esteeme,

²⁶⁰ of F ;]: F ;]: F ²⁶¹ mee, F ²⁶² rude ? What change is this, / F
this, R ²⁶³ ;]: F ²⁶⁴ medicine : F poison] potion F ²⁶⁵ Doe F ieast FR
]: F doe F ²⁶⁶ ;], FR word, F ²⁶⁷ ;]. F -ceiue, FR ²⁶⁸ ;]. F
²⁶⁹ FR38 What? F ²⁷¹ What? FR harme, F ²⁷² Hate mee F
newes, F ²⁷⁵ night, F mee F night, F mee F ²⁷⁶ then, F mee F
-bid) FR ²⁷⁷ ;]: F ²⁷⁹ Thefore F ;]: F ²⁸⁰ ;]: F ; R ;]: R tis no
ieast FR ²⁸¹ do R ²⁸² mee F iugler FR ²⁸³ ;]: F ²⁸⁴ heart, F
Fine, I faith. F ifaith. R ²⁸⁷ answeres, F ²⁸⁸ Fy, fy F -fait F -fet R
²⁹⁰ -pare, F ²⁹² tall par- R ²⁹⁸ -uaild FR



III. 2. 295-330.] *A Midsummer nights Dreame.* 37

Because I am so dwarfish, and so low? 295
How low am I, thou painted May-pole? Speake,
How low am I? I am not yet so low,
But that my nailes can reach vnto thine eyes.

Hel. I pray you though you mocke me, gentlemen,
Let her not hurt me; I was neuer curst: 300
I haue no gift at all in shrewishnesse;
I am a right maide for my cowardize;
Let her not strike me: you perhaps may thinke,
Because she is something lower then my selfe,
That I can match her. 305

Her. Lower? harke againe.

Hel. Good *Hermia*, do not be so bitter with me,
I euermore did loue you *Hermia*,
Did euer keepe your counsels, neuer wronged you,
Saue that in loue vnto *Demetrius*,
I told him of your stealth vnto this wood. 310
He followed you, for loue I followed him,
But he hath chid me hence, and threatned me
To strike me, spurne me, nay to kill me too;
And now, so you will let me quiet go,
To *Athens* will I beare my folly backe, 315
And follow you no further. Let me go.
You see how simple, and how fond I am.

Her. Why get you gone: who ist that hinders you?

Hel. A foolish heart, that I leaue here behinde.

Her. What, with *Lyfander*? 320

Her. With *Demetrius*.

Lyf. Be not afraid, she shall not harme thee *Helena*.

Dem. No sir, she shall not, though you take her part.

Hel. O when she's angry, she is keene and shrewd,
She was a vixen when she went to schoole,
And though she be but little, she is fierce. 325

Her. Little againe? Nothing but low and little?

Why will you suffer her to flout me thus?

Let me come to her.

Lyf. Get you gone you dwarfe,

You *minimus*, of hindring knot-graffe made,

You bead, you acorne.

Dem. You are too officious, 330

²⁹⁵],om. FR lowe F ²⁹⁶ lowe F Speake: F ²⁹⁷ lowe F lowe F
²⁹⁹ pray you, F gentleman F ³⁰⁰], F ³⁰¹],: FR ³⁰² FR³⁰³ maid, F
maid R],: F ³⁰⁴ mee. F -haps, F ³⁰⁵ mee F ³⁰⁶ wrongd F],: F
³⁰⁹ loue, F ³¹⁰ tould F ³¹¹],: F loue, F], F ³¹² mee F ³¹³ mee F
mee; F mee to. F to R ³¹⁴ goe FR ³¹⁵ goe F ³¹⁶ Why? F gon. F
³¹⁹ heere R behind F ³²⁰ *Hel.* With FR ³²¹],: F ³²² fir: F ³²³ O, F
she's] she is F shee's R shrewd. F ³²⁴ -en, F],: F ³²⁵ but] hut F
³²⁷ floute F ³²⁸ gon, F],: F ³²⁹ knot graffe, F knot graffe R],: F

38 *A Midsummer nights Dreame.* [III. 2. 331-363.]

In her behalfe that scornes your seruices.
Let her alone, speake not of *Helena*, [156¹]
Take not her part. For if thou dost intend
Neuer so little shew of loue to her,
Thou shalt abide it. 335

Lys. Now she holds me not,
Now follow if thou dar'st, to try whose right,
Of thine or mine is most in *Helena*.

Dem. Follow? Nay, Ile goe with thee cheeke by
iowle. *Exit Lysander and Demetrius.*

Her. You Mistris, all this coyle is long of you.
Nay, goe not backe. 340

Hel. I will not trust you I,
Nor longer stay in your curst companie.
Your hands then mine, are quicker for a fray,
My legs are longer though to runne away.

Enter Oberon and Pucke.

Ob. This is thy negligence, still thou mistak'st,
Or else committ'st thy knaueries willingly. 345

Puck. Beleeue me, King of shadowes, I mistooke,
Did not you tell me, I should know the man,
By the *Athenian* garments he hath on?
And so farre blamelesse proues my enterprize, 350
That I haue nointed an *Athenians* eies,
And so farre am I glad, it so did sort,
As this their iangling I esteeme a sport.

Ob. Thou see'st these Louers seeke a place to fight,
Hie therefore *Robin*, ouercast the night, 355
The starrie Welkin couer thou anon,
With drooping fogge as blacke as *Acheron*,
And lead these testie Riuals so astray,
As one come not within anothers way.
Like to *Lysander*, sometime frame thy tongue, 360
Then stirre *Demetrius* vp with bitter wrong;
And sometime raile thou like *Demetrius*;
And from each other looke thou leade them thus,

³³¹ behalfe, F ³³² alone: F ³³³ FR40 ³³⁴ shewe F ³³⁵ aby F ³³⁶ abie R
holdes F ;]: F ³³⁷ low, F ³³⁸ mine, FR ³³⁹ go FR thee, F
Exit Lysander and Demetrius.] om. F *Exit.* R ³⁴⁰ You, F ³⁴¹ mistresse FR
³⁴² ;]: F you, F ³⁴³ Not R -ny FR ³⁴⁴ hands, F than FR fray: F
³⁴⁵ legges F though, F ³⁴⁶ *Her.* I am amaz'd, and know not what to
say. *Exeunt.* FR om. Folio *Enter Oberon and Pucke.*] om. FR
³⁴⁷ -gence: F ³⁴⁸ -mitt F -mit't R willingly] wilfully FR ³⁴⁹ mee F
³⁵⁰ shadowes R -tooke FR ³⁵¹ mee, I shoud F ³⁵² -ments, F hath] had F
³⁵³ And, F ³⁵⁴ proues F -prife F ³⁵⁵ eyes. FR ;]: F ³⁵⁶ see'st, F ;]: F
³⁵⁷ Hy F ³⁵⁸ -ry FR ³⁵⁹ leade R ³⁶⁰ teafy F -ty R ³⁶¹ tongue: F
³⁶² vp, F ;]: F ³⁶³ ;]: F ³⁶⁴ other, F lead F ;]: F



III. 2. 364-401.] *A Midsummer nights Dreame.* 39

Till ore their browes, death-counterfeiting, sleepe
 With leaden legs, and Battie-wings doth creepe ; 365
 Then cruſh this hearbe into *Lysanders* eie,
 Whoſe liquor hath this vertuous propertie,
 To take from thence all error, with his might,
 And make his eie-bals role with wonted fight.
 When they next wake, all this deriſion 370
 Shall ſeeme a dreame, and fruitleſſe viſion,
 And backe to *Athens* ſhall the Louers wend
 With league, whoſe date till death ſhall neuer end.
 Whiles I in this affaire do thee imply,
 Ile to my Queene, and beg her *Indian* Boy ; 375
 And then I will her charmed eie releaſe
 From monſters view, and all things ſhall be peace.

Puck. My Fairie Lord, this muſt be done with haſte,
 For night-ſwift Dragons cut the Clouds full faſt,
 And yonder ſhines *Auroras* harbinger ; 380
 At whoſe approach Ghoſts wandring here and there,
 Troope home to Church-yards ; damned ſpirits all,
 That in croſſe-waies and flouds haue buriall,
 Alreadie to their wormie beds are gone ;
 For feare leaſt day ſhould looke their ſhames vpon, 385
 They wilfully themſelues dxile from light,
 And muſt for aye comfort with blacke browd night.

Ob. But we are ſpirits of another fort :
 I, with the mornings loue haue oft made ſport,
 And like a Forreſter, the groues may tread, 390
 Euen till the Eaſterne gate all fierie red,
 Opening on *Neptune*, with faire bleſſed beames,
 Turnes into yellow gold, his ſalt greene ſtreames.
 But notwithstanding haſte, make no delay : [1562]
 We may effect this buſineſſe, yet ere day. 395

Puck. Vp and downe, vp and downe, I will leade
 them vp and downe : I am fear'd in field and towne.
Goblin, lead them vp and downe : here comes one. 400

Enter Lyſander.

Lyf. Where art thou, proud *Demetrius*?
 Speake thou now.

³⁶⁴ -faiſing, sleepe, F ³⁶⁵ ledgs R Batty wings FR ;]: F ³⁶⁶ FR41
 eye ; F ³⁶⁷ -ty FR ³⁶⁸ -our F ³⁶⁹ eyebals F roule F rolle R
³⁷¹ fruitleſſe F ³⁷² wend, F ³⁷³ date, F ³⁷⁴ I, F -faire, doe F im-
 ply] imploy F apply R ³⁷⁵ ,]om. F ;]: F ³⁷⁶ eye F ³⁷⁷ viewe F
³⁷⁸ Faiery F haſte. F ³⁷⁹ nights ſwift F night ſwift R ³⁸⁰ ;]: F ³⁸¹ ap-
 proach, F approach R Ghoſts, F heere R ³⁸² -]om. F ;]: F ³⁸³ croſſe
 waies FR floods F ³⁸⁴ -dy FR -my FR ;]: F ³⁸⁵ exile FR ³⁸⁷ aie R
 black browd F ³⁸⁸ ;]. F ³⁸⁹ loue, F ³⁹⁰ tread,] tread F ³⁹¹ -ry FR
³⁹³ Turnes, F golde F ³⁹⁴ notwithſtandug, F ;]. R ³⁹⁶ down F down F
³⁹⁷ lead F dowe. F ³⁹⁸ town F ³⁹⁹ ;]. F ⁴⁰¹ Speak FR now./ FR

40 *A Midsummer nights Dreame.* [III. 2. 402-430.]

Rob. Here villaine, drawne & readie. Where art thou?

Lyf. I will be with thee straight.

Rob. Follow me then to plainer ground.

Enter Demetrius.

Dem. *Lyfander*, speake againe ;
Thou runaway, thou coward, art thou fled? 405
Speake in some bush: Where dost thou hide thy head?

Rob. Thou coward, art thou bragging to the stars,
Telling the bushes that thou look'st for wars,
And wilt not come? Come recreant, come thou childe,
Ile whip thee with a rod. He is defil'd 410
That drawes a sword on thee.

Dem. Yea, art thou there?

Ro. Follow my voice, we'll try no manhood here. *Exit.*

Lyf. He goes before me, and still dares me on,
When I come where he calls, then he's gone.
The villaine is much lighter heel'd then I: 415
I followed fast, but faster he did flye; *shifting places.*
That fallen am I in darke vneuen way,
And here wil rest me. Come thou gentle day: *lye down.*
For if but once thou shew me thy gray light,
Ile finde *Demetrius*, and reuenge this spight. 420

Enter Robin and Demetrius.

Rob. Ho, ho, ho; coward, why com'st thou not?

Dem. Abide me, if thou dar'st. For well I wot,
Thou runst before me, shifting euery place,
And dar'st not stand, nor looke me in the face.
Where art thou? 425

Rob. Come hither, I am here.

Dem. Nay then thou mock'st me; thou shalt buy this
deere,

If euer I thy face by day-light see.
Now goe thy way: faintnesse constraineth me,
To meafure out my length on this cold bed,
By daies approach looke to be visited. 430

402 -dy FR 408 FR42 404 ;]. F 406 ;]. FR doest F 407,]om. F
-ing, F starres F 408 warres FR 410 whippe F rodde F defil'd, F
412 ;]. F weele F wee'l R *Exit* FR 418 on: F 414 calles FR he
is F hee's R gon F 416 ;]. FR 416 ;]. F fly F flie R *shifting places.*
om. FR 417 vneuen F 418 will FR ;]. F *lye down.*]om. FR 419 once, F
shewe F 421 *Enter*]om. FR Robin, F 421 ;]. F comst F 422 mee F
425 Where art thou now? F ;]. F 426 mockst FR ;]. F that F dear F
deare R 427 day light F 428 Now, F ;]. F mee F 429 -ure, F
length, F ;]. F 431 approach R



Enter Helena.

Hel. O weary night, O long and tedious night,
Abate thy houres, shine comforts from the East,
That I may backe to *Athens* by day-light,
From these that my poore companie detest;
And sleepe that sometime shuts vp sorrowes eie,
Steale me a while from mine owne companie. 435
Sleepe.

Rob. Yet but three? Come one more,
Two of both kindes makes vp foure.
Here she comes, curst and sad,
Cupid is a knauish lad, 440

Enter Hermia.

Thus to make poore females mad.
Her. Neuer so wearie, neuer so in woe,
Bedabbled with the dew, and torne with briars,
I can no further crawle, no further goe;
My legs can keepe no pace with my desires. 445
Here will I rest me till the breake of day,
Heauens shield *Lyfander*, if they meane a fray.

Rob. On the ground sleepe sound,
He apply your eie gentle loue, remedy. 450
When thou wak'st, thou tak'st
True delight in the sight of thy former Ladies eye, 455
And the Country Prouerb knowne, [157]
That euery man should take his owne,
In your waking shall be showne. 460
Jacke shall haue *Ill*, nought shall goe ill,
The man shall haue his Mare againe, and all shall bee
well.

They sleepe all the Act.

⁴³²FR⁴³ -forts, F ,]; F ⁴³³*Athens*, F day light F ⁴³⁴-ny FR
;]: F ⁴³⁵sleepe, F -times FR eye F ⁴³⁶mee F -ny R ⁴³⁷,]. F
⁴³⁸fower F ⁴³⁹Heare shee F ⁴⁴⁰ladde F *Enter Hermia.*
om. F ⁴⁴¹madde F ⁴⁴²-ry FR ⁴⁴³deaw F ⁴⁴⁴briers: F ⁴⁴⁵,]: F
⁴⁴⁶legges F ⁴⁴⁷pase F ⁴⁴⁸mee, F ,]: F ⁴⁴⁹shielde F ⁴⁵⁰ground, F
⁴⁵¹,]: F ⁴⁵²eye, F ⁴⁵³delight, F ⁴⁵⁴fight, F ⁴⁵⁵eie R ,]: F
⁴⁵⁶-erbe FR ⁴⁵⁷shoven F ⁴⁵⁸,]: F ⁴⁵⁹go R ,]: F ⁴⁶⁰again F
be FR *They sleepe all the Act.*] *om.* FR

Actus Quartus.

Enter Queene of Fairies, and Clowne, and Fairies, and the King behinde them.

Tita. Come, fit thee downe vpon this flowry bed,
While I thy amiable cheekes doe coy,
And sticke muske rofes in thy flecke smoothe head,
And kisse thy faire large eares, my gentle ioy.

Clow. Where's *Pease blossome*?

5

Peaf. Ready.

Clow. Scratch my head, *Pease-blossome*. Wher's Moun-
sieur *Cobweb*.

Cob. Ready.

Clowne. Mounsieur *Cobweb*, good Mounfier get your 10
weapons in your hand, & kill me a red hipt humble-Bee,
on the top of a thistle; and good Mounsieur bring mee
the hony bag. Doe not fret your selfe too much in the
action, Mounsieur; and good Mounsieur haue a care the
hony bag breake not, I would be loth to haue yon ouer- 15
flowne with a hony-bag signiour. Where's Mounsieur
Mustardseed?

Muf. Ready.

Clo. Giue me your neafe, Mounsieur *Mustardseed*.
Pray you leaue your courtesie good Mounsieur. 20

Muf. What's your will?

Clo. Nothing good Mounsieur, but to help Cauallery
Cobweb to scratch. I must to the Barbers Mounsieur, for
me-thinkes I am maruellous hairy about the face. And I
am such a tender asse, if my haire do but tickle me, I must 25
scratch.

Tita. What, wilt thou heare some musicke, my sweet
loue.

Clow. I haue a reasonable good eare in musicke. Let
vs haue the tongs and the bones.

Musicke Tongs, Rurall Musicke.

Actus Quartus.] om. FR Faieries F Faieries: R ¹ Come sit FR
² do R ³ stick musk F ⁴ smoothe F ⁵ *Pease-blossome* FR ⁶ heade F
-sieur FR ⁷ FR ⁸ FR ⁹ FR ¹⁰ FR ¹¹ FR ¹² FR ¹³ FR ¹⁴ FR ¹⁵ FR ¹⁶ FR ¹⁷ FR ¹⁸ FR ¹⁹ FR ²⁰ FR
²¹ Humble Bee F ²² toppe F ²³ F ²⁴ F ²⁵ F ²⁶ F ²⁷ F ²⁸ F ²⁹ F ³⁰ F ³¹ F ³² F ³³ F ³⁴ F ³⁵ F
much, F ³⁶ F ³⁷ F ³⁸ F ³⁹ F ⁴⁰ F ⁴¹ F ⁴² F ⁴³ F ⁴⁴ F ⁴⁵ F ⁴⁶ F ⁴⁷ F ⁴⁸ F ⁴⁹ F ⁵⁰ F
-flowen F ⁵¹ honibag signior F ⁵² seede F ⁵³ die F ⁵⁴ seede F
⁵⁵ you, F ⁵⁶ curtise, F ⁵⁷ -sie, R ⁵⁸ wil R ⁵⁹ helpe FR ⁶⁰ webbe, F ⁶¹ -bers, F
J. F ⁶² me thinkes F ⁶³ -uailles F ⁶⁴ -uailous R ⁶⁵ doe F ⁶⁶ mee F ⁶⁷ some
some R ⁶⁸ -sique F ⁶⁹ -sick R ⁷⁰ sweete F ⁷¹ FR ⁷² -sique F ⁷³ Let vs] Lets F
⁷⁴ tongs, F *Musicke Tongs, Rurall Musicke.] om. FR*

IV. 1. 30-63.] *A Midsummer nights Dreame.* 43

Tita. Or say sweete Loue, what thou desirest to eat. 30

Clowne. Truly a pecke of Prouender; I could munch
your good dry Oates. Me-thinkes I haue a great desire
to a bottle of hay: good hay, sweete hay hath no fel-
low.

Tita. I haue a venturous Fairy, 35
That shall seeke the Squirrels hoard,
And fetch thee new Nuts.

Clowne. I had rather haue a handfull or two of dried
pease. But I pray you let none of your people stirre me, I
haue an exposition of sleepe come vpon me.

Tyta. Sleepe thou, and I will winde thee in my arms, 40
Fairies be gone, and be alwaies away.
So doth the woodbine, the sweet Honifuckle,
Gently entwift; the female Iuy so
Enrings the barky fingers of the Elme.
O how I loue thee! how I dote on thee! 45 [157²]

Enter Robin goodfellow and Oberon.

Ob. Welcome good *Robin*:

Seeft thou this sweet sight?
Her dotage now I doe begin to pittie.
For meeting her of late behinde the wood,
Seeking sweet fauors for this hatefull foole,
I did vpbraide her, and fall out with her. 50
For she his hairy temples then had rounded,
With coronet of fresh and fragrant flowers.
And that same dew which somtime on the buds,
Was wont to swell like round and orient pearles;
Stood now within the pretty flouriets eyes, 55
Like teares that did their owne disgrace bewaile.
When I had at my pleafure taunted her,
And she in milde termes beg'd my patience,
I then did aske of her, her changeling childe,
Which straight she gaue me, and her Fairy sent 60
To beare him to my Bower in Fairy Land.
And now I haue the Boy, I will vndoe
This hatefull imperfection of her eyes.

³⁰ Or, F eate FR ³¹ Truly FR -uander. F mounch FR ³² Me
thinkes, F ³³ .]. F ³⁴ I have a venturous Fairy, that shall seeke the
Squirrels hoord, / And fetch thee newe nuts. F ³⁷ full, F dried F
³⁸ But, F you: F stir R .]. F ³⁹ mee F ⁴⁰ armes FR ⁴¹ Faeries F
gon F ⁴² [sweete FR ⁴³ .]. F ⁴⁵ FR ⁴⁵ and Oberon] om. FR ⁴⁶ .]. F
[sweete F fight? / FR ⁴⁷ do R -ginne F -tie F ⁴⁸ late, F ⁴⁹ [sweete FR
faours] faours F ⁵⁰ deawe F sometime F buddes F ⁵⁴ [swell, F
⁵⁵ eies R ⁵⁶ teares, F ⁵⁷ had, F -ure, F ⁵⁸ she, F tearmes, F
tearmes R begd FR ⁵⁹ childe: F ⁶⁰ mee F ⁶¹ him, F bower, F
-rie F ⁶² eies R

44 *A Midsummer nights Dreame.* [IV. 1. 64-96.]

And gentle *Pucke*, take this transformed scalpe,
From off the head of this *Athenian* swaine ; 65
That he awaking when the other doe,
May all to *Athens* backe againe repaire,
And thinke no more of this nights accidents,
But as the fierce vexation of a dreame.
But first I will releafe the Fairy Queene. 70

*Be thou as thou wast wont to be ;
See as thou wast wont to see.
Dians bud, or Cupids flower,
Hath such force and blessed power.*

Now my *Titania* wake you my sweet Queene. 75

Tita. My *Oberon*, what visions haue I seene !
Me-thought I was enamoured of an Asse.

Ob. There lies your loue.

Tita. How came these things to passe ?

Oh, how mine eyes doth loath this visage now !

Ob. Silence a while. *Robin* take off his head : 80

Titania, musick call, and strike more dead

Then common sleepe ; of all these, fine the sence.

Tita. Musicke, ho musicke, such as charmeth sleepe.

Musick still.

Rob. When thou wak'st, with thine owne fooles eies
peepe. (me

Ob. Sound musick ; come my Queen, take hands with 85
And rocke the ground whereon these sleepers be.

Now thou and I are new in amity,

And will to morrow midnight, solemnly

Dance in Duke *Theus* house triumphantly,

And blesse it to all faire posterity. 90

There shall the paires of faithfull Louers be

Wedded, with *Theus*, all in iollity.

Rob. Faire King attend, and marke,

I doe heare the morning Larke.

Ob. Then my Queene in silence sad, 95

Trip we after the nights shade ;

⁶⁴ And, F *Puck* F ⁶⁵ off] of F heade F ⁶⁶ hee, F do FR ⁶⁹ fearcē F
⁷¹ *Be thou*] Be, F *Be* R bee: F ⁷² See, F ⁷³ budde F ⁷⁴ force, F
⁷⁵ Now, F ⁷⁶ *-nia*, F you, FR ⁷⁷ sweete FR ⁷⁸ Me thought F ⁷⁹ -ourd F
⁸⁰ -ored R ⁸¹ lyes F loue. / FR ⁸² O F eies R doth] doe F loathe R
this] his F ⁸³ *Robin*, F of R his] this FR :]; R ⁸⁴ -icke FR ⁸⁵ :]; F
⁸⁶ Musick, howe musick: F *Musick still.*] om. FR ⁸⁷ When] Now, when F
own fooles eyes F peep R ⁸⁸ :]; F come, F me, F ⁸⁹ Now, F ⁹⁰ -tie F
⁹¹ solemnly F ⁹² Daunce, F ⁹³ posterity] prosperitie F ⁹⁴ -tie F
⁹⁵ Fairy King, FR attend and R marke: F ⁹⁶ do FR ⁹⁷ Queene, F
⁹⁸ Trippe F the] om. F :]; F

IV. 1. 97-131.] *A Midfommer nights Dreame.* 45

We the Globe can compasse foone,
Swifter then the wandring Moone.

Tita. Come my Lord, and in our flight,
Tell me how it came this night, 100
That I sleeping heere was found,

Sleepers Lye still.

With thefe mortals on the ground. *Excunt.* [158']
Winde Hornes.

Enter Theseus, Egeus, Hippolita and all his traine.

Thef. Goe one of you, finde out the Forrefter,
For now our obseruation is perform'd ;
And since we haue the vaward of the day, 105
My Loue shall heare the musicke of my hounds.
Vncouple in the Westerne valley, let them goe ;
Dispatch I say, and finde the Forrefter.
We will faire Queene, vp to the Mountaines top.
And marke the musicall confusion 110
Of hounds and eccho in coniunction.

Hip. I was with *Hercules* and *Cadmus* once,
When in a wood of *Crete* they bayed the Beare
With hounds of *Sparta* ; neuer did I heare
Such gallant chiding. For besides the groues, 115
The skies, the fountaines, euery region neere,
Seeme all one mutuall cry. I neuer heard
So musicall a discord, fuch sweet thunder.

Thef. My hounds are bred out of the *Spartan* kinde,
So flew'd, so fanded, and their heads are hung 120
With eares that sweepe away the morning dew,
Crooke kneed, and dew-lapt, like *Theffalian* Buls,
Slow in purfuit, but match'd in mouth like bels,
Each vnder each. A cry more tuneable
Was neuer hallowed to, nor cheer'd with horne, 125
In *Crete*, in *Sparta*, nor in *Theffaly* ;
Iudge when you heare. Bnt soft, what nimphs are these ?

Egeus. My Lord, this is my daughter heere asleepe,
And this *Lyfander*, this *Demetrius* is,
This *Helena*, olde *Nedars Helena*, 130
I wonder of this being heere together.

⁹⁷ We, the Globe, F ⁹⁹ flight. R ¹⁰¹ here F *Sleepers Lye still.* om. FR
¹⁰² horne. F *Enter Theseus and all his traine.* FR ¹⁰³ -ster : F
¹⁰⁴ -formde. F ¹⁰⁷ -ple, F -lie F go R ;] : F ¹⁰⁹ Wee will, F toppe F
], FR ¹¹¹ Echo F ¹¹² FR47 -mus, F ¹¹³ Beare, F ¹¹⁴ ;] : F ¹¹⁶ fkyes F
neare F], om. F ¹¹⁸ [sweete FR ¹¹⁹ -lane F], F ¹²⁰ fanded : F
¹²¹ eares, F deawe F ¹²² deawlapt F Buls : F ¹²³ Slowe F -suite R
]; F matcht FR ¹²⁴ tunable F ¹²⁵ hollowd FR cheerd F ¹²⁶ ;], F
¹²⁷ But FR], F nymphes F ¹²⁸ is] om. F a sleepe F ¹³⁰ old F
], F ¹³¹ this] their F here F

46 *A Midsummer nights Dreame.* [IV. 1. 132-166.

The. No doubt they rose vp early, to obserue
The right of May ; and hearing our intent,
Came heere in grace of our solemnity.
But speake *Egeus*, is not this the day 135
That *Hermia* should giue answer of her choice ?

Egeus. It is, my Lord.

Thef. Goe bid the huntf-men wake them with their
hornes.

Hornes and they wake.

Shout within, they all start vp.

Thef. Good morrow friends : Saint *Valentine* is past,
Begin these wood birds but to couple now ? 140

Lyf. Pardon my Lord.

Thef. I pray you all stand vp.
I know you two are Riual enemies.
How comes this gentle concord in the world,
That hatred is is so farre from iealousie,
To sleepe by hate, and feare no enmity. 145

Lyf. My Lord, I shall reply amazedly,
Halfe sleepe, halfe waking. But as yet, I sweare,
I cannot truly say how I came heere.
But as I thinke (for truly would I speake)
And now I doe bethinke me, so it is ; 150

I came with *Hermia* hither. Our intent
Was to be gone from *Athens*, where we might be
Without the perill of the *Athenian* Law.

Ege. Enough, enough, my Lord : you haue enough ;
I beg the Law, the Law, vpon his head : 155
They would haue stolne away, they would *Demetrius*,
Thereby to haue defeated you and me :
You of your wife, and me of my consent ;
Of my consent, that she should be your wife.

Dem. My Lord, faire *Helen* told me of their stealth, 160
Of this their purpose hither, to this wood,
And I in furie hither followed them ; [158]
Faire *Helena*, in fancy followed me.

But my good Lord, I wot not by what power,
(But by some power it is) my loue 165
To *Hermia* (melted as the snow)

¹³² doubt, F earely F ¹³³ ;] F ¹³⁴ heere, F -tie F ¹³⁵ speake, F day, F
¹³⁶ choyce F choys R ¹³⁷ Goe, F Go R -]om. FR *Hornes and they*
wake] *Winde hornes* FR *Shoute within* : F ¹³⁸ -row, F :] F :] F
¹⁴⁰ woodbirds F -ple, F ¹⁴¹ -don, FR all, F ¹⁴² know, F ¹⁴³ worlde F
¹⁴⁴ is is]is FR ¹⁴⁵ FR48 -tie, F ¹⁴⁶ thal F ¹⁴⁷ But, F ¹⁴⁸ truly FR
here FR ¹⁴⁹ truly FR ¹⁵⁰ do R mee F ¹⁵¹ -mia, F ¹⁵² gon F
:] F be]om. F ¹⁵³ lawe, F ¹⁵⁴ enough my FR :] F ¹⁵⁵ begge F
¹⁵⁶ would, *De-* FR ¹⁵⁷ mee, F :] F ¹⁵⁸ -ry FR ¹⁵⁹ following mee F
¹⁶⁰ wote F :]om. FR ¹⁶¹ loue, F ¹⁶² snowe F Seemes FR

Seems to me now as the remembrance of an idle gaude,
Which in my childehood I did doat vpon :
And all the faith, the vertue of my heart,
The obiect and the pleafure of mine eye, 170
Is onely *Helena*. To her, my Lord,
Was I betroth'd, ere I fee *Hermia*,
But like a fickenesse did I loath this food,
But as in health, come to my naturall taste,
Now doe I wish it, loue it, long for it, 175
And will for euermore be true to it.

Thef. Faire Louers, you are fortunately met ;
Of this discourse we shall heare more anon.
Egeus, I will ouer-bear your will ;
For in the Temple, by and by with vs, 180
These couples shall eternally be knit.
And for the morning now is something worne,
Our purpos'd hunting shall be set aside.
Away, with vs to *Athens* ; three and three,
Wee'll hold a feast in great solemnitie. 185
Come *Hippolita*. *Exit Duke and Lords.*

Dem. These things seeme small & vndistinguishable,
Like farre off mountaines turned into Clouds.
Her. Me-thinks I see these things with parted eye,
When euery things seemes double. 190

Hel. So me-thinkes :
And I haue found *Demetrius*, like a iewell,
Mine owne, and not mine owne.

Dem. It seemes to mee,
That yet we sleepe, we dreame. Do not you thinke,
The Duke was heere, and bid vs follow him ? 195

Her. Yea, and my Father.

Hel. And *Hippolita*.

Lys. And he bid vs follow to the Temple.

Dem. Why then we are awake ; lets follow him, and
by the way let vs recount our dreames.

Bottom wakes.

Exit Louers.

Clo. When my cue comes, call me, and I will answer. 200

168 -hoode F dote FR 170 eie R 172 betrothed F bethroth'd R
-mia : F 178 But, F sicknesse, FR loathe R foode. F 174 But, F
176 doe I I doe F do I R 177 ;]. F 178 -course, FR shall heare more]
more will here F will heare more R 179 F49 -]om. FR ;]. F 180 R49
by, with F 182 And, F something F 184 vs, F ;]. F 186 Weele F
Wee'l R holde F feast, F -ty R 186-6 *Hyppolita*. / F *Exit Duke*
and Lords.]om. F *Exit*. R 189 Me thinks F things, F eie R 190 thing FR
mee thinks F 191 fonnd F 192-3 *Dem.* It seemes] *Dem.* Are you lure /
That we are awake ? It seemes FR 198 me FR 196 here F 196 *Hyppolita* F
197 bid] did bid F 198 then, F ;]. F let's R 199 let vs] lets F *Exit*
Louers.]om. F *Exit*. R *Bottom wakes*.]om. FR 200 mee F answere F

48 *A Midsummer nights Dreame.* [IV. 1. 201-2. 18.]

My next is, most faire *Piramus*. Hey ho. *Peter Quince*?
Flute the bellows-mender? *Snout* the tinker? *Starueling*? Gods my life! Stolne hence, and left me asleepe: I
 haue had a most rare vision. I had a dreame, past the wit
 of man, to say, what dreame it was. Man is but an Assie, 205
 if he goe about to expound this dreame. Me-thought I
 was, there is no man can tell what. Me-thought I was,
 and me-thought I had. But man is but a patch'd foole,
 if he will offer to say, what me-thought I had. The eye of
 man hath not heard, the eare of man hath not seen, mans 210
 hand is not able to taste, his tongue to conceiue, nor his
 heart to report, what my dreame was. I will get *Peter*
Quince to write a ballet of this dreame, it shall be called
Bottomes Dreame, becaufe it hath no bottome; and I will
 sing it in the latter end of a play, before the Duke. Per- 215
 aduerture, to make it the more gracious, I shall sing it
 at her death. *Exit.*

Enter Quince, Flute, Thisbie, Snout, and Starueling. [IV. 2.]

Quin. Haue you sent to *Bottomes* house? Is he come
 home yet?

Staru. He cannot be heard of. Out of doubt hee is
 transported.

This. If he come not, then the play is mar'd. It goes 5 [159']
 not forward, doth it?

Quin. It is not possible: you haue not a man in all
Athens, able to discharge *Piramus* but he.

This. No, hee hath simply the best wit of any handy-
 craft man in *Athens*. 10

Quin. Yea, and the best person too, and hee is a very
 Paramour, for a sweet voyce.

This. You must say, Paragon. A Paramour is (God
 blefse vs) a thing of nought.

Enter Snug the Ioyner.

Snug. Masters, the Duke is comming from the Tem- 15
 ple, and there is two or three Lords & Ladies more mar-
 ried: If our sport had gone forward, we had all bin made
 men.

201 *Pyramus*, F *Peeter* F 212 *Flute*, F bellows men- F 218 mee a
 sleepe? F 204 I had] I haue had FR 216 say; F 206 hee F 20 R
 to] om. F Me thought F 207 Me thought F 218 me thought F a
 patch'd] patcht a FR 219 hee F mee thought F eie R 210 seene FR
 211 F50 212 hearte F dream/ R50 213 dream R,]: F call'd FR
 214 -toms F,]: F 216 gracious F 217 *Exit.*] om. F -bie,]-by F
Snout, and Starueling] and the rabble FR 1-toms F 2 home, F 8 *Staru.*]
Flut. FR Hee F,]: F hee F 6 hee F mard FR 6,]: F 7:]: F
 man, F 8 *Pyramus*, F 9 he R 10 man, F 11 to F he R 12 [weete FR
 voice F 14 Snug, F 17:]: FR gon F wee F beene FR



IV. 2. 19-V. 1. 4.] *A Midsummer nights Dreame.* 49

Thif. O sweet bully *Bottome*: thus hath he lost sixpence a day, during his life; he could not haue scaped sixpence a day. And the Duke had not giuen him sixpence a day for playing *Piramus*, Ile be hang'd. He would haue deferued it. Sixpence a day in *Piramus*, or nothing. 20

Enter Bottome.

Bot. Where are these Lads? Where are these hearts?

Quin. *Bottome*, ô most couragious day! O most happye houre! 25

Bot. Masters, I am to discourfe wonders; but ask me not what. For if I tell you, I am no true *Athenian*. I will tell you euery thing as it fell out.

Qu. Let vs heare, sweet *Bottome*. 30

Bot. Not a word of me: all that I will tell you, is, that the Duke hath dined. Get your apparell together, good frings to your beards, new ribbands to your pumps, meete presently at the Palace, euery man looke ore his part: for the short and the long is, our play is preferred: In any case let *Thisby* haue cleane linnen: and let not him that playes the Lion, paire his nailes, for they shall hang out for the Lions clawes. And most deare Actors, eate no Onions, nor Garlicke; for wee are to vtter sweete breath, and I doe not doubt but to heare them say, it is a sweet Comedy. No more words: away, go away. 40

Exeunt.

Actus Quintus.

Enter Theseus, Hippolita, Egeus and his Lords.

Hip. 'Tis strange my *Theseus*, y these louers speake of.

The. More strange then true. I neuer may beleuee These anticke fables, nor these Fairy toyes, Louers and mad men haue such feething braines,

¹⁹ sweete FR .j. F hee F six pence F sixpence R ²⁰ .j. F hee
coulede F six pence F ²¹ six pence F ²² day, F *Pyr.* F hanged F
²³ Six pence F day, F *Piramus*, / F51 .tom F ²⁴ harts F ²⁵ .tom F
-py FR ²⁷ R51 .j. F aske FR mee R ²⁸ no] not FR ²⁹ tel R
as] right as FR ³⁰ sweete FR -tom F ³¹ mee. F ³² apparrell F
³³ beardes F ribbands F pumpes F ³⁴ -rie R ³⁵ .j. F For, F -ferd. FR
³⁶ him, F ³⁷ plaies FR Lyon, pare F .j. F ³⁸ Lyons F ³⁹ .j. F we FR
⁴⁰ .j. F do FR hear F ⁴¹ sweete FR wordes. F *Exeunt.*] om. FR
Actus Quintus.] om. FR *Hyp.* F *Egeus and his Lords*] and Philostrate FR
¹ Tis FR strange, F ² straunge F ³ antique F toies R .j. F ⁴ Louers, F

50 *A Midsummer nights Dreame.* [V. 1. 5-38.]

Such shaping phantasies, that apprehend more 5
Then coole reason euer comprehends.
The Lunaticke, the Louer, and the Poet,
Are of imagination all compact.
One sees more diuels then vaste hell can hold;
That is the mad man. The Louer, all as franticke, 10
Sees *Helens* beauty in a brow of *Egipt*.
The Poets eye in a fine frenzy rolling, doth glance
From heauen to earth, from earth to heauen.
And as imagination bodies forth the forms of things 15
Vnknowne; the Poets pen turns them to shapes,
And giues to aire nothing, a locall habitation,
And a name. Such tricks hath strong imagination,
That if it would but apprehend some ioy, [159^a]
It comprehends some bringer of that ioy. 20
Or in the night, imagining some feare,
How easie is a bussh suppos'd a Beare?
Hip. But all the storie of the night told ouer,
And all their minds transfigur'd so together,
More witnesseeth than fancies images, 25
And growes to something of great constancie;
But howfoeuer, strange, and admirable.

*Enter louers, Lyfander, Demetrius, Hermia,
and Helena.*

The. Heere come the louers, full of ioy and mirth:
Ioy, gentle friends, ioy and fresh dayes
Of loue accompany your hearts. 30

Lyf. More then to vs, waite in your royall walkes,
your boord, your bed.

The. Come now, what maskes, what dances shall
we haue,
To weare away this long age of three houres,
Between our after supper, and bed-time?
Where is our vsuall manager of mirth? 35
What Reuels are in hand? Is there no play,
To ease the anguish of a torturing houre?
Call *Egeus*.

Ege. Heere mighty *Thefeus*.

⁶ more, F -hends. The lunaticke, / The louer, and the Poet are of im-
agination all compact. / F ⁹-els, F vast F holde: F ¹⁰-tick F
¹¹ *Egypt* F ¹²eye, F eie R -zy, F ¹³heauen. And as / Imagination F
¹⁴ formes FR things / F52 ;]: F penne F ¹⁶ayery F airy R
¹⁸ trickes FR ¹⁹R52 ²⁰But, F -ry FR mindes R ²¹-cy FR ;]: F
²⁷ strange and FR Louers; F louers: R -mia and F ²⁸Here FR :]. F
²⁹daies FR ³¹roiall R boorde F bedde F ³²now: F daunces F
wee FR ³³hours, betweene / F ³⁴tweene R our] Or FR bed-time.
Where is our vsuall manager / Of mirth F ³⁷hower? Call *Philoftrate*. / F
³⁸ *Egeus*] *Philoftrate* FR *Ege.*] *Philoftrate*. FR Here F

The. Say, what abridgement haue you for this eue-
ning?

What maske? What musicke? How shall we beguile 40
The lazie time, if not with some delight?

Ege. There is a breefe how many sports are rife :
Make choise of which your Highnesse will see first. .

Lif. The battell with the Centaurs to be fung
By an Athenian Eunuch, to the Harpe. 45

The. Wee'l none of that. That haue I told my Loue
In glory of my kinsman Hercules.

Lif. The riot of the tipfie Bachanals,
Tearing the Thracian finger, in their rage?

The. That is an old deuice, and it was plaid 50
When I from *Thebes* came last a Conqueror.

Lif. The thrice three Muses, mourning for the death
of learning, late deceaft in beggerie.

The. That is some Satire keene and criticall,
Not forting with a nuptiall ceremonie. 55

Lif. A tedious breefe Scene of yong *Piramus*,
And his loue *Thisby*; very tragicall mirth.

The. Merry and tragicall? Tedious, and breife? That
is, hot ice, and wondrous strange snow. How shall wee 60
finde the concord of this discord?

Ege. A play there is, my Lord, some ten words long,
Which is as breefe, as I haue knowne a play ;
But by ten words, my Lord, it is too long ;
Which makes it tedious. For in all the play,
There is not one word apt, one Player fitted. 65

And tragicall my noble Lord it is : for *Piramus*
Therein doth kill himselfe. Which when I saw
Reheart, I must confesse, made mine eyes water :
But more merrie teares, the passion of loud laughter 70
Neuer shed.

Thef. What are they that do play it?

Ege. Hard handed men, that worke in Athen's heere,
Which neuer labour'd in their mindes till now ;

³⁹ abridgment R ⁴⁰ maske, FR ⁴¹ -zy tyme F ⁴² *Ege.*] *Philost.* FR
briefe, FR rife] ripe F :]. FR ⁴³ choyce, F ⁴⁴ *Lif.*] *The.* FR -taures F
fung, F ⁴⁵ Eunuche F .] F ⁴⁶ *The.*] om. FR Weele F tolde FR
loue, FR ⁴⁷ *Lif.*] om. FR ryot F ⁴⁸ FR53 ⁴⁹ *The.*] om. FR olde FR
deuise F .] F ; R plaid, FR ⁵⁰ -rer F ⁵¹ *Lif.*] om. FR thrife F
⁵² Of FR deceaft, F -ry FR .] F ⁵³ *The.*] om. FR ⁵⁴ -ny FR
⁵⁵ *Lif.*] om. FR briefe FR young FR *Pyr.* F .] om. F ⁵⁶ .] F FR
⁵⁷ *The.*] om. FR -ry, F .] om. R briefe. That is hot life, / FR ⁵⁸ Ice R
wondrous F ⁵⁹ we F find F -cord / Of F ⁶⁰ *Ege.*] *Philost.* FR long ; F
⁶¹ briefe FR .] F ⁶² But, F Lord it F .] F ⁶³ plaier R ⁶⁴ -call, FR
Lord, FR .] F *Piramus*, F ⁶⁵ -in, F ⁶⁶ eies R .] ; R ⁶⁷ -ry F
] om. FR ⁶⁸ they, F doe F ⁶⁹ *Ege.*] *Phil.* FR here FR ⁷⁰ minds F
:] F

And now haue toyled their vnbreathed memories
With this same play, against your nuptiall.

75

The. And we will heare it.

Phi. No, my noble Lord, it is not for you. I haue heard [160¹]
It ouer, and it is nothing, nothing in the world ;
Vnlesse you can finde sport in their intents,
Extreamely stretcht, and cond with cruell paine,
To doe you seruice.

80

Thef. I will heare that play. For neuer any thing
Can be amisse, when simplenesse and duty tender it.
Goe bring them in, and take your places, Ladies.

Hip. I loue not to see wretchednesse orecharged ;
And duty in his seruice perishing.

85

Thef. Why gentle sweet, you shall see no such thing.

Hip. He saies, they can doe nothing in this kinde.

Thef. The kinder we, to giue them thanks for nothing
Our sport shall be, to take what they mistake ;
And what poore duty cannot doe, noble respect
Takes it in might, not merit.

90

Where I haue come, great Clearkes haue purposed
To greete me with premeditated welcomes ;

Where I haue seene them shiuer and looke pale,

95

Make periods in the midft of sentences,

Throttle their practiz'd accent in their feares,

And in conclusion, dumbly haue broke off,

Not paying me a welcome. Trust me sweete,

Out of this silence yet, I pickt a welcome :

100

And in the modesty of fearefull duty,

I read as much, as from the ratling tongue

Of faucy and audacious eloquence.

Loue therefore, and tongue-tide simplicity,

In least, speake most, to my capacity.

105

Egeus. So please your Grace, the Prologue is addest.

Duke. Let him approach.

Flor. Trum.

Enter the Prologue.

Quince.

Pro. If we offend, it is with our good will.
That you should thinke, we come not to offend,
But with good will. To shew our simple skill,
That is the true beginning of our end.
Consider then, we come but in despight.

110

⁷⁴ -ries, FR ⁷⁶ wee F ⁷⁹ entents F ⁸⁰ Extremely R ⁸¹ do FR
⁸² duty F ⁸⁴ FR ⁸⁵ duty, F duty R -uice, F ⁸⁷ Why, F sweete FR
⁸⁸ faves F do R ⁸⁹ thanks, F -ing. FR ⁹⁰ ;]. F : R ⁹¹ do R
⁹² Clerkes F ⁹⁴ me, F ⁹⁶ -sion dumbly F ⁹⁹ mee F me, F ¹⁰⁰ fi-
lence, F ¹⁰² rattling F ¹⁰⁴ Loue, F tong-tide F ¹⁰⁶ Egeus.] *Philost.* FR
¹⁰⁷ *Flor. Trum.*] om. FR *Quince.*] om. FR ¹⁰⁸ wee F

We do not come, as minding to content you,
Our true intent is. All for your delight,
We are not heere. That you should here repent you, 115
The Actors are at hand ; and by their show,
You shall know all, that you are like to know.

Thef. This fellow doth not stand vpon points.

Lyf. He hath rid his Prologue, like a rough Colt : he
knowes not the stop. A good morall my Lord. It is not 120
enough to speake, but to speake true.

Hip. Indeed hee hath plaid on his Prologue, like a
childe on a Recorder, a found, but not in gouernment.

Thef. His speech was like a tangled chaine : nothing
impaired, but all disordered. Who is next ? 125

Tawyer with a Trumpet before them.

Enter Pyramus and Thisby, Wall, Moone-shine, and Lyon.

Prol. Gentles, perchance you wonder at this show,
But wonder on, till truth make all things plaine.
This man is *Pyramus*, if you would know ;
This beauteous Lady, *Thisby* is certaine.
This man, with lyme and rough-cast, doth present 130
Wall, that vile wall, which did these louers funder :
And through walls chink (poor soules) they are content
To whispe. At the which, let no man wonder.
This man, with Lanthorne, dog, and bush of thorne,
Presenteth moone-shine. For if you will know, 135
By moone-shine did these Louers thinke no scorne
To meet at *Ninus* toombe, there, there to wooe :
This grizy beast (which Lyon hight by name) [160]
The trusty *Thisby*, comming first by night,
Did scarre away, or rather did affright : 140
And as she fled, her mantle she did fall ;
Which Lyon vile with bloody mouth did staine.
Anon comes *Pyramus*, sweet youth and tall,
And findes his *Thisbies* Mantle flaine ;
Whereat, with blade, with bloody blamefull blade, 145
He brauely broacht his boiling bloody breast,
And *Thisby*, tarrying in Mulberry shade,

118 doe F 116 Wee F here F 116 ;: F and, F shoue F 117 knowe, F
118 FR55 119 Colte F hee FR 120 stoppe F 121 ;: F 122 hee F his]
this FR 123 child F found ; F gouernement F 124 speach F ;: FR
125 *Tawyer with a Trumpet before them.* om. FR -mus, F Wall, and
Wall, and F 126 show, show. F 127 But, F truthe F 128 Pyr- F
knowe : F 129 -tious FR Lady *Th/by* F 130 ,om. R -]om. FR
132 wals chinke FR (), F poore FR 134 lanterne, dogge F 137 meete FR
tombe F 138 grizly FR 139 *Thyl* F 141 ;: F 142 Lion R 143 *Pyr*- F
sweete FR youth, F 144 his] his trusty FR -byes F ;: F 146 boyl- F
bloody FR ,. F 147 tary- F

54 *A Midsummer nights Dreame.* [V. I. 148-182.]

His dagger drew, and died. For all the rest,
Let *Lyon*, *Moone-shine*, *Wall*, and *Louers* twaine,
At large discourse, while here they doe remaine. 150

Exit all but Wall.

Thef. I wonder if the *Lion* be to speake.

Deme. No wonder, my *Lord*: one *Lion* may, when
many *Asses* doe.

Exit Lyon, Thisbie, and Moone-shine.

Wall. In this same Interlude, it doth befall,
That I, one *Snowt* (by name) present a wall: 155
And such a wall, as I vvould haue you thinke,
That had in it a crannied hole or chinke:
Through which the *Louers*, *Pyramus* and *Thisbie*
Did whisper often, very secretly.

This loame, this rough-cast, and this stone doth shew, 160
That I am that same *Wall*; the truth is so.
And this the cranny is, right and sinister,
Through which the fearefull *Louers* are to whisper.

Thef. Would you desire *Lime* and *Haire* to speake
better? 165

Deme. It is the vvittiest partition, that euer I heard
discourse, my *Lord*.

Thef. *Pyramus* drawes neere the *Wall*, silence.

Enter Pyramus.

Pir. O grim lookt night, ô night with hue so blacke,
O night, which euer art, when day is not: 170
O night, ô night, alacke, alacke, alacke,
I feare my *Thisbies* promise is forgot.

And thou ô vvall, thou sweet and louely vvall,
That stands betweene her fathers ground and mine,
Thou vvall, ô vvall, ô sweet and louely vvall, 175
Shew me thy chinke, to blinke through vvith mine eine.
Thankes courteous vvall. *Ioue* shield thee vvell for this.
But vvhat fee I? No *Thisbie* doe I see.

O vvicked vvall, through vvhom I see no blisse,
Curst be thy stones for thus deceiuing mee. 180

Thef. The vvall me - thinkes being sensible, should
curse againe.

¹⁴⁸ drewe F dyed F ¹⁵⁰ do R *Exit all but Wall.*] om. FR ¹⁵¹ FR56
-der, F *Lyon* FR ¹⁵² :]. F ¹⁵³ do R Thyf by F -by R *Moone-*
shine R ¹⁵⁴ enter. F -lude,] -lude FR ¹⁵⁵ *Snowt*] *Flute* FR ¹⁵⁶ thinke,]
thinke F ¹⁵⁷ cranied F ¹⁵⁸ *Pyramus*, F -by, FR ¹⁶⁰ lome FR -] om. FR
showe, F show. R ¹⁶¹ :]. F ¹⁶² cranie F ¹⁶⁴ speak R ¹⁶⁵ *Pir*- R
neare F ,]: F *Enter Pyramus.*] om. FR ¹⁶⁹ night, with F ¹⁷² -byes F
¹⁷³ thou sweet and] ô sweete, ô FR ¹⁷⁴ standst F ¹⁷⁵ sweete FR ¹⁷⁶ Showe
mee F blink FR through, F ¹⁷⁷ Thanks R cur- F well, F ¹⁷⁸ -by FR
do R ¹⁷⁹ whome F ¹⁸⁰ stones, FR me R ¹⁸¹ mee thinkes, F me-thinks R



Pir. No in truth fir, he should not. *Deceiuing me,*
Is *Thisbies* cue ; she is to enter, and I am to spy
Her through the vvall. You shall see it vvill fall. 185

Enter Thisbie.

Pat as I told you ; yonder she comes.

Thif. O vvall, full often hast thou heard my mones,
For parting my faire *Piramus*, and me.
My cherry lips haue often kist thy stones ;
Thy stones vvith Lime and Haire knit vp in thee. 190

Pyra. I see a voyce ; now vvill I to the chinke,
To spy and I can heare my *Thisbies* face. *Thisbie* ?

Thif. My Loue thou art, my Loue I thinke.
Pir. Thinke vvhat thou vvilt, I am thy Louers grace,
And like *Limander* am I trusty still. 195

Thif. And like *Helen* till the Fates me kill.
Pir. Not *Shafalus* to *Procrus*, was so true.
Thif. As *Shafalus* to *Procrus*, I to you.
Pir. O kisse me through the hole of this vile wall. [163]
Thif. I kisse the wals hole, not your lips at all. 200
Pir. Wilt thou at *Ninnies* tombe meete me straight
way ?

Thif. Tide life, tide death, I come without delay.
Wall. Thus haue I *Wall*, my part discharged so ;
And being done, thus *Wall* away doth go. *Exit Clow.*
Du. Now is the morall downe betweene the two 205
Neighbors.

Dem. No remedie my Lord, when Wals are so wil-
full, to heare without vvarning.
Dut. This is the filliest stuffe that ere I heard.
Du. The best in this kind are but shadowes, and the 210
worst are no worse, if imagination amend them.
Dut. It must be your imagination then, & not theirs.
Duk. If wee imagine no worse of them then they of
themselues, they may passe for excellent men. Here com
two noble beasts, in a man and a Lion. 215

Enter Lyon and Moone-shine.

Lyon. You Ladies, you (whose gentle harts do feare

¹⁸⁸ No, F mee is / *Thisbies* F ¹⁸⁴ ;] : F enter] enter now FR ¹⁸⁶ fall.]
fall FR *Enter Thisbie.*] (*follows line 186*) FR -by F ¹⁸⁶ FR57 ;] : F
¹⁸⁸ *Pyr.* F mee F ¹⁹⁰ stones, F hayire F vp in thee] now againe FR
¹⁹¹ voice FR ;] : F ¹⁹² *byes* F ¹⁹³ -by FR ¹⁹⁴ Grace : F ¹⁹⁵ And, F
-der, FR ¹⁹⁶ And] And I, F And I R *Helen*, FR ¹⁹⁷ -alus, F ¹⁹⁹ mee, F
vilde F ²⁰⁰ walles F ;] : F ²⁰¹ thou, F tombe, F toomb R straight-
way R ²⁰² tyde death F ²⁰³ I, F ²⁰⁴ And, F goe FR *Exit Clow.*
om. FR ²⁰⁵ morall downe] Moon vied FR between F ²⁰⁷ -dy, FR
²⁰⁹ stuffe, F ere] euer F, ²¹⁰ best, F kinde, F kinde R ;] : F ²¹² -tion, F
;] : F ²¹³ we F them, F ²¹⁴ Heere R come FR ²¹⁵ Lyon FR
Lyon, F ²¹⁶ hearts FR

The smallest monstrous mouse that creepes on floore)
 May now perchance, both quake and tremble heere,
 When Lion rough in wildest rage doth roare.
 Then know that I, one *Snug* the Ioyner am 220
 A Lion fell, nor else no Lions dam:
 For if I should as Lion come in strife
 Into this place, 'twere pittie of my life.

Du. A verie gentle beast, and of a good conscience.

Dem. The verie best at a beast, my Lord, y ere I saw. 225

Lif. This Lion is a verie Fox for his valor.

Du. True, and a Goose for his discretion.

Dem. Not so my Lord: for his valor cannot carrie
 his discretion, and the Fox carries the Goose.

Du. His discretion I am sure cannot carrie his valor: 230
 for the Goose carries not the Fox. It is well; leaue it to
 his discretion, and let vs hearken to the Moone.

Moon. This Lanthorne doth the horned Moone pre-
 sent.

De. He should haue worne the hornes on his head.

Du. Hee is no crescent, and his hornes are inuisible, 235
 within the circumference.

Moon. This lanthorne doth the horned Moone pre-
 sent: My selfe, the man i'th Moone doth seeme to be.

Du. This is the greatest error of all the rest; the man
 should be put into the Lanthorne. How is it els the man 240
 i'th Moone?

Dem. He dares not come there for the candle.

For you see, it is already in snuffe.

Dut. I am vvarie of this Moone; vwould he would
 change. 245

Du. It appeares by his final light of discretion, that
 he is in the wane: but yet in courtesie, in all reason, vve
 must stay the time.

Lif. Proceed Moone.

Moon. All that I haue to say, is to tell you, that the 250
 Lanthorne is the Moone; I, the man in the Moone; this
 thorne bush, my thorne bush; and this dog, my dog.

217 mouse, F 218 now, F here F 219 Lyon rough, FR rage, F
 220 one] as FR 221 FR58 Lyon FR Lyons damme FR :]. F, R
 222 For, F should, FR Lyon, F Lyon R strife, FR 223 'twere R
 -ty FR of] on FR 224 very FR 225 very FR 226 Lyon FR very FR
 fox, F -our FR 227, :]. F 228 :]. FR -our FR -ry FR 229 :]. F; R
 230 -tion, F sure, F -ry FR -our FR :]. FR 231 :]. F 232 hearken]
 listen F 233 hornes, F 234 He FR 235 present, / My FR 236 ith F
 ith' R Moone, F doth] doe F do R 237 -our F 238 else FR 239 ith F
 240 there, F candle. For/you F 241 weary F weary R :]. F hee
 would F 242 appeares, F small FR 243 hee FR cur- FR wee F
 244 -ceede, F 245 :]. F I the F in the] ith F ;]. F 246 :]. com. F ;]. FR
 dogge my dogge F

Dem. Why all these should be in the Lanthorne: for they are in the Moone. But silence, heere comes *Thisby*.

Enter Thisby.

Thif. This is old *Ninnies* tombe: where is my loue? 255

Lyon. Oh.

The Lion roares, Thisby runs off.

Dem. Well roar'd Lion.

Du. Well run *Thisby*. [163^a]

Dut. Well thone Moone.

Truly the Moone shines with a good grace. 260

Du. Wel mouz'd Lion.

Dem. And then came *Piramus*.

Lyf. And so the Lion vanisht.

Enter Piramus.

Pyr. Sweet Moone, I thank thee for thy funny beames,
I thanke thee Moone, for shining now so bright: 265

For by thy gracious, golden, glittering beames,
I trust to taste of truest *Thisbies* sight.

But stay: O spight! but marke, poore Knight,
What dreadful dole is heere? 270

Eyes do you see! How can it be!

O dainty Ducke: O Deere!

Thy mantle good; what staine with blood! 275

Approch you Furies fell:

O Fates! come, come: Cut thred and thrum,

Quaile, crush, conclude, and quell.

Du. This passion, and the death of a deare friend,
Would go neere to make a man looke sad. 280

Dut. Beshrew my heart, but I pittie the man.

Pir. O wherefore Nature, did'st thou Lions frame?

Since Lion wilde hath heere deflour'd my deere:

Which is: no, no, which was the fairest Dame 285

That liu'd, that lou'd, that lik'd, that look'd with cheere.

Come teares, confound: Out sword, and wound

²⁵⁸ Why? F bee F ²⁵⁴ they] all these F ,]: F here F ²⁵⁶ ould F
Ninies FR tumble. F toomb: R wher's R loue? *Lyon.* Oh. / FR
²⁵⁶ ,]om. R *The Lion roares, Thisby runs off.*]om. FR ²⁵⁷ FR59 roard, F
roard R *Lyon* FR ²⁵⁸ runne, F runne R ²⁵⁹ Well . . . shines, / FR
shoone R ²⁶⁰ True- R -ly, F shines, F ²⁶¹ Well FR mouz'd, F
Lyon FR ²⁶² *Pyr.* F ²⁶³ *Lyon* FR *Pyr.* F ²⁶⁴ Sweete FR thanke
thee, F beams. F ²⁶⁵ thee, F :]. FR ²⁶⁶ gracious F ²⁶⁷ taste] take FR
-by F ²⁶⁸ full FR here FR ²⁶⁹ bee F ²⁷⁰ duck F :], FR
deare FR ²⁷¹ :], FR ²⁷² what, F ²⁷³ Approach ye FR :], FR
²⁷⁴]om. FR :], FR ²⁷⁵ thread and thrumme F ²⁷⁶ friend would / goe FR
²⁷⁷ Beshrewe F -ty FR ²⁷⁸ O, wherefore, F didst FR *Lyons* FR
²⁷⁹ *Lyon* FR here F :]. F ; R ²⁸⁰ :], FR no, no: F ²⁸¹ lik't FR
look't FR ²⁸² ,]om. R :], FR ²⁸³ ,]om. R

The pap of *Piramus* :

I, that left pap, where heart doth hop ; 290

Thus dye I, thus, thus, thus.

Now am I dead, now am I fled, my foule is in the sky, 295

Tongue lose thy light, Moone take thy flight,

Now dye, dye, dye, dye, dye.

Dem. No Die, but an ace for him ; for he is but one.

Lif. Lesse then an ace man. For he is dead, he is no- 300
thing.

Du. With the helpe of a Surgeon, he might yet reco-
uer, and proue an Assé.

Dut. How chance Moone-shine is gone before?

Thisby comes backe, and findes her Louer. 305

Enter Thisby.

Duke. She wil finde him by starre-light.

Heere she comes, and her passion ends the play.

Dut. Me thinkes thee should not vse a long one for
such a *Piramus* : I hope she will be breefe.

Dem. A Moth wil turne the ballance, which *Piramus* 310
which *Thisby* is the better. (eyes.)

Lyf. She hath spyed him already, with those sweete

Dem. And thus she meanes, *videlicet.* 315

This. Asleepe my Loue? What, dead my Doue?

O *Piramus* arise :

Speake, Speake. Quite dumbe? Dead, dead? A tombe

Must couer thy sweet eyes.

These Lilly Lips, this cherry nose, 320

These yellow Cowslip cheekes

Are gone, are gone : Louers make mone :

His eyes were greene as Leekes. 325

O sisters three, come, come to mee,

With hands as pale as Milke,

Lay them in gore, since you haue shore 330

With sheeres, his thred of silke.

Tongue not a word : Come trusty sword :

Come blade, my brest imbrue :

²⁸⁹ pappe F *Pyr.* FR ²⁹⁰ pappe F ²⁹¹ hoppe. F ²⁹² dy F die R
²⁹³ foule, R, J. F ²⁹⁴ loose F ²⁹⁵ dy, dy, dy, dy, dy. F ²⁹⁶ J. F ²⁹⁷ FR ²⁹⁸
ace, F ²⁹⁹ J. om. R and yet proue F ³⁰⁰ before? *Thisby*/comes F
³⁰¹ *Enter Thisby.* J. om. FR ³⁰² Shee . . . thee/ F She . . . comes, / R
will FR him, F star- R ³⁰³ Here FR ³⁰⁴ Me-thinkes R -kes, F the FR
one, F ³⁰⁵ *Pyr.* F hope, F brieft FR ³⁰⁶ will FR J.; F *Pyr.* F
-mus, FR ³⁰⁷ -bie R better.] better: he (hee R) for a man; (, R) God
ward us: (; R) she, (, J. om. R) for a woman; (, R) God bleffe vs. FR
³⁰⁸ spied FR eies R ³⁰⁹ *videlicet*; F ³¹⁰ A sleepe F ³¹¹ *Piramus*, F
J.; FR ³¹² tombe F toombe R ³¹³ sweete FR eies R ³¹⁴ lippes F
³¹⁵ -lippe F ³¹⁶ gon, are gon F J.; R ³¹⁷ greene, F ³¹⁸ come, to F
me R ³¹⁹ threede F ³²⁰ Tongue, F word, R ³²¹ J.; FR ³²² brest
imbrew FR



And farwell friends, thus *Thisbie* ends ; 335 [162¹]
Adieu, adieu, adieu.

Duk. Moon-shine & Lion are left to burie the dead.

Deme. I, and Wall too.

Bot. No, I assure you, the wall is downe, that parted 340
their Fathers. Will it please you to see the Epilogue, or
to heare a Bergomask dance, betweene two of our com-
pany?

Duk. No Epilogue, I pray you ; for your play needs
no excuse. Neuer excuse ; for when the plaiers are all 345
dead, there need none to be blamed. Marry, if hee that
writ it had plaid *Piramus*, and hung himselfe in *Thisbies*
garter, it would haue beene a fine Tragedy : and so it is
truely, and very notably discharg'd. But come, your
Burgomaske ; let your Epilogue alone. 350

The iron tongue of midnight hath told twelue.

Louers to bed, 'tis almost Fairy time.

I feare we shall out-sleepe the comming morne,

As much as we this night haue ouer-watcht.

This palpable grosse play hath well beguil'd 355

The heauy gate of night. Sweet friends to bed.

A fortnight hold we this solemnity.

In nightly Reuels ; and new iollitie.

Exeunt.

Enter Pucke.

Puck Now the hungry Lyons rores,
And the Wolfe beholds the Moone : 360

Whilest the heauy ploughman fnores,

All with weary taske fore-done.

Now the wasted brands doe glow,

Whil't the scritch-owle, scritch'ing loud,

Puts the wretch that lies in woe, 365

In remembrance of a shrowd.

Now it is the time of night,

That the graues, all gaping wide,

Euery one lets forth his spright,

In the Church-way paths to glide. 370

And we Fairies, that do runne,

By the triple *Hecates* teame,

³³⁵ farewell F ;] F ³³⁶ *Thysby* ends : F ³³⁸ *Moone*- FR Lyon FR
bury FR to F ³⁴⁰ *Bot.*] *Lyon*. FR you the R ³⁴¹ you, F ³⁴² -maske
daunce, between F ³⁴⁴ FR ³⁴¹ ;] F ³⁴⁵ ;] : F players FR ³⁴⁶ deade F
neede F Mary F he R ³⁴⁷ it, F played F *Pyr*- F hangd F hang'd R
³⁴⁹ come your F ³⁵⁰ ;] : F ³⁵¹ tolde FR ³⁵² tis FR ³⁵³ -lom. F ³⁵⁴ wee F
-lom. F ³⁵⁵ -uie F Sweete friends, F ³⁵⁷ holde F -tie F .], FR
³⁵⁸ ;], FR -ty FR ³⁵⁹ roares. F ³⁶⁰ ;] : FR ³⁶¹ Whilft FR -uie F
³⁶² foredoone F ³⁶³ do R glowe F ³⁶⁴ Whilft FR scriche- F scriche-
ing lowd F ³⁶⁵ wretch, F lyes F ³⁶⁶ shrowde F ³⁷⁰ -lom. FR ³⁷¹ wee F
doe F runne R

60 *A Midsummer nights Dreame.* [V. I. 373-410.]

From the presence of the Sunne,
Following darkenesse like a dreame,
Now are frolicke ; not a Moufe 375
Shall disturbe this hallowed house.
I am sent with broome before,
To sweep the dust behinde the doore.

Enter King and Queene of Fairies, with their traine.

Ob. Through the house giue glimmering light,
By the dead and drowfie fier, 380 [162^a]
Euerie Elfe and Fairie spright,
Hop as light as bird from brier,
And this Ditty after me, sing and dance it trippinglie.

Tita. First rehearse this song by roate, 385
To each word a warbling note.
Hand in hand, with Fairie grace,
Will we sing and blesse this place.

The Song.

*Now untill the breake of day,
Through this house each Fairy stray. 390
To the best Bride-bed will we,
Which by vs shall blessed be :*

*And the issue there create,
Euer shall be fortunate :
So shall all the couples three, 395
Euer true in louing be :*

*And the blots of Natures hand,
Shall not in their issue stand.
Neuer mole, harelip, nor scarre,
Nor marke prodigious, such as are 400
Despised in Natiuitie,*

*Shall vpon their children be.
With this field dew consecrate,
Euerie Fairy take his gate,
And each seuerall chamber blesse, 405
Through this Pallace with sweet peace,*

*Euer shall in safety rest,
And the owner of it blest.
Trip away, make no stay ;
Meet me all by breake of day. 410*

⁸⁷⁴ darknesse R ⁸⁷⁵ -lick : F ⁸⁷⁷ sent, F broome, F ⁸⁷⁸ FR 62
sweepe FR dust, F dore F *their*] *all their* FR ⁸⁸¹ Euerie FR Fairy FR
⁸⁸² birde F ⁸⁸³ -tie F mee F ⁸⁸⁴ Sing, F daunce F -ly FR ⁸⁸⁵ this]
your F rote F ⁸⁸⁷ -ry FR grace ; R ⁸⁸⁸ *The Song.*] *om.* FR ⁸⁸⁹ *Now*
Ob. Now FR Now, F ⁸⁹⁰ house, FR ⁸⁹¹ bride bed F wee : F ⁸⁹⁸ issue, F
⁸⁹⁶] *om.* F ⁸⁹⁷] *om.* F ⁸⁹⁹ hare-lippe F hare-lip R ⁹⁰¹ -ty R ⁹⁰⁸ deaw F
⁹⁰⁶ palace, FR ⁹⁰⁷ sweete FR ⁹⁰⁹ Trippe F ,:] F ;:] F ⁹¹⁰ Meete FR
all, FR *day.*] *day.* *Excurs.* FR



Robin. If we shadowes haue offended,
 Thinke but this (and all is mended)
 That you haue but slumbred heere,
 While thefe visions did appeare.
 And this weake and idle theame, 415
 No more yeelding but a dreame,
 Centles, doe not reprehend.
 If you pardon, we will mend.
 And as I am an honest *Pucke*,
 If we haue vnearned lucke, 420
 Now to scape the Serpents tongue,
 We will make amends ere long :
 Else the *Pucke* a lyar call.
 So good night vnto you all.
 Giue me your hands, if we be friends, 425
 And *Robin* shall restore amends.

FINIS.

⁴¹⁸ FR63 here F ⁴¹⁴ thefe] this R ⁴¹⁶ yield- F ⁴¹⁷ Gentles FR
 do R ⁴¹⁸ wee F ⁴¹⁹ And, F *Puck* F ⁴²⁰ luck F ⁴²² amends, F
⁴²⁸ Elfe, F *Puck* a lyer F ⁴²⁴ So, F ⁴²⁶ friends : F



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